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Trends in Drug Offences and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime

by Norm Desjardins and Tina Hotton

Highlights

- After a period of decline throughout the 1980's and early 1990's, the rate of police-reported drug offences increased by 42% between 1992 and 2002. Much of this increase can be attributed to a rise in offences for the possession of cannabis.
- The rate of trafficking offences increased over the period 1977 to 1992, but has since declined 13%.
- According to police-reported statistics, rates of importation and production offences are relatively low, but have more than doubled since the early 1990's.
- According to police-reported statistics, cannabis offences have risen 81% between 1992 and 2002, driven largely by possession offences, which have almost doubled over the past decade. In 2002, three in four drug-related incidents involved cannabis offences, most of which were for simple possession.
- Rates per 100,000 population for drug-related violations in 2002 were highest for individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 in 2002 (860) followed by 12 – 17 year-olds (645).
- The highest rates of drug offences among the provinces in 2002 were reported in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Among Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), rates were highest in Thunder Bay, Vancouver and Victoria.
- In 2001/02, for the eight provinces and one territory providing drug case data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey, drug offences represented 9% of all adult criminal court cases of which 5% were for possession and 4% were for trafficking. Drug-related cases accounted for 7% of cases processed in youth courts (5% for possession; 2% for trafficking).
- Estimates from the 1999 General Social Survey suggest that in half of physical (51%) and sexual (48%) assaults, the victim believed that the incident was related to the perpetrator's use of alcohol or drugs.
- Between 1992 and 2002, 684 (11%) homicide incidents in Canada were reported to be drug related. Of these, 176 (26%) were gang-related.
- Of the 684 drug-related homicide incidents in Canada between 1992 and 2002, 19% occurred in Vancouver, 18 % in Montréal and 12% in Toronto. Fully half of all homicide incidents in Canada involving heroin (52%) and more than one-fifth (22%) of cocaine-related homicides took place in Vancouver.



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Introduction

Illicit drug use, and excessive use of alcohol and licit¹ drugs, creates a burden for Canadian society and its social welfare systems. The negative impact of drug and alcohol abuse on both criminal justice and health care systems has been highlighted in reports from Parliament (House of Commons 2002), the Auditor General (2001), the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (Single, Robson, Xie, and Rehm 1996) and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Single, Truong, Adlaf, and Ialomiteanu 1999). Enumerating the opportunity costs of lost productivity, misdirected personal finances and lost human potential serve only to portray a more serious picture of the situation (Auditor General 2001).

Canada's laws governing drug use are currently in a state of transition. A number of recent court rulings have raised questions about the constitutionality of current laws regarding possession of small amounts of marihuana (see Box 9). While changes are being considered to federal legislation, the medicinal properties of marihuana to treat adverse symptoms related to AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases have been recognized and some Canadians are currently allowed to possess or cultivate marihuana for medical purposes.^{2,3,4,5} In addition, the city of Vancouver opened Canada's first supervised injection site in September, 2003 to address the needs of the city's heroin and cocaine addicts. The facility operates with the approval of Health Canada (see Box 2) (Health Canada 2003a).

While generally declining in recent years, impaired driving remains a common and serious alcohol-related, and often drug-related, crime. The downward trend which began in 1981 may be attributable to a number of factors, including changing attitudes with respect to impaired driving and legislation which supports these attitudes (including increased fines), enforcement practices used by the police, and demographic shifts in the population (Janhevich, Gannon and Morisset 2003). Monitoring drug-related impairment however is difficult because of a lack of adequate and non-invasive roadside testing methods available for police use (see Box 6) (House of Commons 2002).

Box 1

Drugs, Alcohol and Crime: A Complex Relationship

Drug and alcohol use have a complex association with crime. For example, while many adolescents begin their experience with drugs before committing illegal activities, a smaller portion begin using drugs only after becoming involved in non-drug criminal activity. In either case the criminal activity is often used to fund their substance abuse (Brunelle, Brochu and Cousineau 2000).

A recent study on the nature of the links between the usage and abuse of alcohol and drugs and the commission of crime looked at the associations among crime types and the use of alcohol and drugs along with the share of crimes attributable to alcohol and drugs (Pernanen, Cousineau, Brochu and Sun 2002). The study found that alcohol-dependent federal inmates were much more likely to have committed a violent crime than were drug-dependent inmates, while drug-dependent inmates were more likely to have committed a gainful crime (theft, break and enter, etc.). Approximately 46% of a sample of federal inmates who were convicted of theft, 41% convicted of robbery and 36% convicted of breaking and entering reported committing the crime to support their alcohol or drug habit. The same study estimates that approximately 38% of newly admitted federal male inmates and almost half of provincial inmates (48% of males; 49% of females) were dependent on either or both substances.

1. Over-the-counter and prescription drugs.
2. On July 30, 2001, Health Canada implemented the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations, which define the circumstances and the manner in which access to marihuana for medical purposes will be permitted.
3. As of September 5, 2003, 642 persons are allowed to possess marihuana for medical purposes (558 hold an Authorization to Possess dried marihuana under the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR); 84 hold an Exemption for possession under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). Five hundred persons are allowed to cultivate/produce marihuana for medical purposes (Health Canada 2003c).
4. The Community Research Initiative of Toronto is testing the effect of marihuana on the appetites of AIDS patients. A group at McGill University in Montreal is testing the effects of marihuana on neuropathic pain. Health Canada provides funding but not the marihuana. Until such time as a licit, domestic supply is established, Health Canada will secure a supply of research-grade marihuana for clinical trials being conducted in Canada. Both the U.S. National Institute of Drug Abuse and a private company in the U.K., GW Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., are sources of drug material for upcoming clinical trials. (Health Canada 2003c).
5. Ottawa signed a \$5.7-million, four-year contract in 2000 with Saskatoon-based Prairie Plant Systems to grow marihuana for the government. The marihuana is being grown in a former mine in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

This *Juristat* describes changes in drug offences and impaired driving in Canada, and provides a broad examination of the relationships between drug and alcohol use, and crime. Trends in drug offences reported by police will be examined, as well as recent conviction and sentencing data for adult and youth court cases relating to drug possession and trafficking. It will also summarize offence trends in impaired driving. Finally, the report looks at the role of drug and/or alcohol consumption during the commission of spousal assault and other violent offences.

Box 2

Supervised Drug Injection Sites

Injection drug use involves a wide variety of adverse health and social consequences which have negative impacts on individuals, families and the economy. Major causes of drug-related death are suicide, overdose and AIDS contracted from sharing needles — all of which are strongly associated with injection drug use (Health Canada 2004). These deaths and related hospitalizations result in the bulk of the costs to the health care system as well as lost productivity costs attributable to illicit drugs (Health Canada 2001), particularly in Vancouver, where the number of drug overdose deaths has risen markedly in recent years (Poulin, Stein, and Butt 2000).

In September 2003, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority opened the first supervised injection site in Canada in the downtown eastside of Vancouver. This site was approved by Health Canada as a 3-year pilot research project using an exemption under Section 56 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA). The exception allows individuals to take their own injection drugs, such as cocaine or heroin, into the site for their own use without fear of arrest (Vancouver Coastal Health 2003). The site provides a clean, hygienic environment and medical supervision with the goal of reducing drug overdoses among Vancouver drug users.

This initiative forms part of the research for Canada's National Drug Strategy into the root causes of substance abuse, prevention, and harm reduction. The goal of the project is to assess whether the establishment of a supervised injection site will reduce the harm associated with illicit drug use, improve the health of drug users, increase appropriate use of health and social services by drug users and reduce the health, social, legal and incarceration costs associated with drug use (Health Canada 2003a). Similar sites are found in other countries such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and Australia (House of Commons 2002).

Trends in Drug Offences

Drug offences reported in this *Juristat* include drug possession, drug trafficking, as well as the importation, exportation and production of drugs (see Box 3).⁶

In 2002, 92,590 drug incidents (incidents where the most serious offence (MSO) was drug-related) were reported by police in Canada (Table 1). The most common offence was the possession of illegal drugs (61,166), followed by drug trafficking (19,970) and the importation/exportation or production of drugs (11,454). In addition to the 92,590 incidents where drugs were the most serious offence, there were an estimated 7,815 additional incidents involving a drug violation as a lesser offence.⁷

Cannabis offences accounted for 76% of all drug-related incidents in 2002, followed by cocaine (13%), and heroin (1%). The remaining 10% of offences related to "other" types of drugs, which include LSD, ecstasy, and barbiturates, among others (Table 2).

Recent increase in the number of drug offences reported by police

After a period of decline in the 1980's and early 1990's, the rate of police-reported drug offences increased by 42% between 1992 and 2002 (similar to the peak rate for both 1980 and 1981) (Figure 1) (Table 1). Most of this increase can be attributed to a recent rise in the cannabis possession rate, which nearly doubled (96%) since 1992 (Figure 2) (Table 2). Other drugs⁸ also showed a small increase (4%) over this time period, while cocaine and heroin both decreased (12% and 28% respectively).

The rate of trafficking offences increased over the period 1977 to 1992, but has since declined 13%. The cocaine offence rate has declined (28%) since 1992, as has heroin (61%) and other drugs (42%). According to police-reported statistics, only the rate of cannabis trafficking incidents has increased (21%) since the early 1990's.

Police-reported rates of importation and production offences are relatively low, but have more than doubled since the early 1990's (Table 1). This rise in importation/production offence rates has been largely a result of the cannabis incident rate which increased 115% between 1992 and 2002. Other rates have fluctuated since 1992, but while small in size, have shown a relatively substantial increase. The rate of cocaine importation and production offences continues to be low, ranging from less than 1 to 2 incidents per 100,000 population. The rate for the importation/production of heroin has been small for many years, with a fluctuating trend, often less than 1 per 100,000.

Property loss and administration of justice violations are most commonly associated with drug-related incidents

In 2002, the UCR2 Research database (which can record multiple violations for individual incidents⁹) included a total of 66,351 violations among all incidents involving a drug offence¹⁰ for that year, including 53,953 (81%) drug violations. The most common of the remaining (non-drug) violations (19%) included theft or other property loss (7%), administration of justice (6%), weapons (2%), assault or the threat of bodily harm (2%), and property damage and public order (1%). Other crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, prostitution and liquor violations accounted for only 1% of all non-drug related violations among drug-related incidents.

6. It is important to note that changes in the rate of drug offences reported by police do not necessarily mirror changes in the number of drug users in Canada, nor are they an accurate measure of the number of individuals involved in the trafficking, import/export or production of drugs. The number of recorded drug crimes is sensitive to police resources available for enforcement and detection, as well as local police priorities.

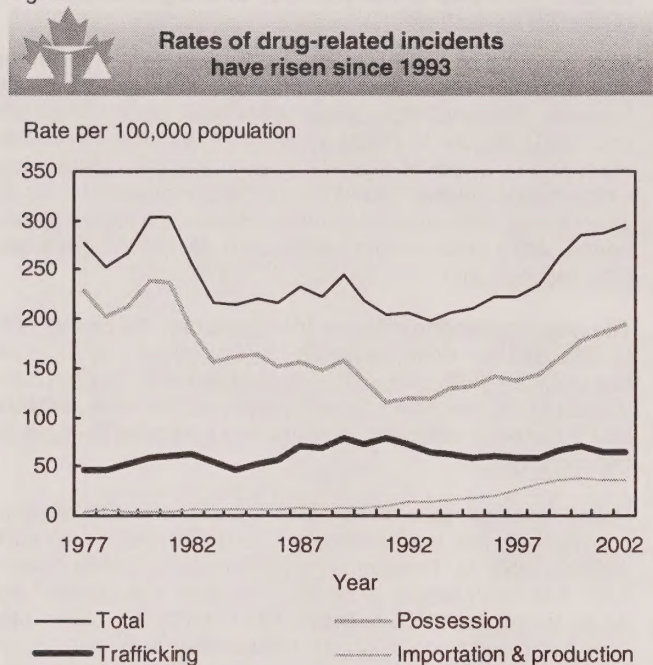
7. These 7,815 additional incidents were estimated using the Incident-Based (UCR2) Survey which gathers detailed characteristics about incidents, victims and offenders that are not available from the aggregate UCR survey. In 2002, the UCR2 Research database, a subset of the UCR2 database, included 94 police agencies in 9 provinces. These data represent 56% of the national volume of reported actual Criminal Code incidents.

8. Some examples include LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines, barbiturates or anabolic steroids.

9. An arresting officer may report up to 4 separate violations when recording the details of an incident.

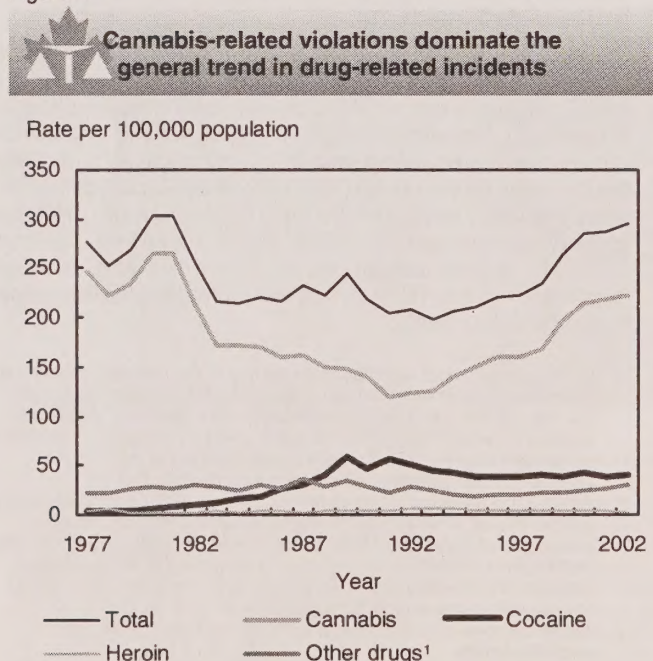
10. About 3 in 10 (29%) incidents involving a drug offence reported to the UCR2 survey involved non-drug violations.

Figure 1



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 2



1. Examples of Other Drugs include: LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines, barbiturates or anabolic steroids.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Box 3

Drug offences and their penalties defined

The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) includes a number of drug offences related to the possession, production, import/export and sale of drugs. It also includes special offences designed to aid in the forfeiture of offence-related property. Sentencing options can vary by the type of drug(s) (refer to the summary of drug schedules at the end of this text box), the quantity of drugs involved, and by previous convictions for drug offences. "Possession of property obtained by certain offences" and "Laundering proceeds of certain offences" (items (e) and (f) below) are excluded from analysis in the *Juristat* because the data used in this study do not distinguish between property and proceeds specifically related to drug crimes from those obtained through the commission of other criminal activities.

- (a) Possession of substance [s.4 (1) (2)] – no person shall possess a Schedule I, II or III substance nor seek or obtain a substance included in Schedule I, II, III or IV from a practitioner without authorization.
- (b) Trafficking in substance [s.5 (1) (2)] – no person shall traffic in a Schedule I, II, III or IV substance, or possess a Schedule I, II, III or IV substance for the purposes of trafficking.
- (c) Importing and exporting [s.6 (1) (2)] – no person shall import to Canada or export from Canada a Schedule I through VI substance, or possess a substance included in Schedule I through VI for the purpose of exporting.
- (d) Production of substance [s.7 (1)] – no person shall produce a Schedule I, II, III or IV substance except as authorized under the regulations.
- (e) Possession of property obtained by certain offences [s.8(1)] – no person shall possess any property or any proceeds of any property knowing that all or part of the property or proceeds was obtained or derived directly or indirectly under the offences defined in (b), (c) and (d).
- (f) Laundering proceeds of certain offences [s.9(1)] – no person shall use, transfer the possession of, dispose of or otherwise deal with, any property or proceeds of any property obtained as a result of the commission of an offence described in (b), (c), (d) or (e).

Summary of Drug Schedules

Schedule I substances include various opiates, heroin, cocaine, phencyclidine (PCP), methadone, and analgesics such as pentazocine.

Schedule II substances include cannabis (marijuana) and cannabis resin (hashish).

Schedule III substances include amphetamines and derivatives (such as 'speed'), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and methylphenidate (such as Ritalin 7).

Schedule IV substances include barbiturates, anabolic steroids, and benzodiazepines (tranquilizers such as Valium, Ativan, and Rohypnol).

Schedule V substances include Propylhexedrine (found in nasal sprays) and any salt thereof. Schedule IV and V substances are not illegal to possess; however, it is illegal to import, export or traffic in these substances except under control regulations.

Schedule VI substances are considered to be "precursor" chemicals frequently used in the production of illicit drugs. Examples of precursor substances include ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

For a more detailed breakdown of drugs included in each Schedule group, see Part VII of the CDSA.

Males are more likely to be charged with drug offences than females

In 2002, 89% of persons charged with the possession of drugs were male as were 83% of persons charged with drug trafficking offences and 80% charged with the importation, exportation and production of illegal drugs.

Although some research literature has suggested that the gender gap in involvement in crime has narrowed in recent

years (Stevenson, Tufts, Hendrick, and Kowalski 1998), this does not appear to be true for drug crime in Canada. The proportion of female drug offenders has not substantially increased over the past 25 years.

Young adults and adolescents have highest rates for drug-related offences

Recent research has found that self-reported drug use among youth has increased over the past decade (Adlaf and Paglia 2001; Poulin, VanTil and Wilbur 1999). UCR2 survey data shows that rates per 100,000 for drug-related violations in 2002 were highest for individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 in 2002 (860)¹¹ followed by 12 – 17 year-olds (645) (Table 3). The rates for older individuals declined with age.

According to the UCR2 survey, the cannabis possession rate was 502 per 100,000 for 18 – 24 year-olds and 478 for those aged 12 – 17. Cannabis trafficking was also common among younger age groups. Those in the 18 – 24 year old and 12 – 17 year—old age groups had the highest rates for cannabis trafficking (121 and 101 respectively). Cocaine violations were most common among 18 – 24 year-olds (possession (58); trafficking (91)) as well as the 25–35 year-old group (possession (38); trafficking (49)).

Rates are highest in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick

The rate of police reported drug offences varies considerably across Canada (Figure 3). In 2002, among the provinces, the rate per 100,000 population was highest in British Columbia (544), Saskatchewan (351) and New Brunswick (343). Rates of drug offences in British Columbia have been well above the national average each year between 1977 and 2002 (Table 4).

Rates of drug offences have fluctuated considerably in the provinces between 1977 and 2002. For example, Alberta's rate of drug offences was well above the national average until the 1990's. Similarly, the provinces of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia had higher than average rates of drug offences in the late 1970's and early 1980's but have generally shown lower rates than the Canadian average for the past decade. Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec are the only provinces that have consistently shown lower rates of drug offences than the Canadian average.

Since the early 1990's, all provinces and territories have had an increase in the rate of drug offences reported by police. New Brunswick has had the largest increase (134%), followed by Saskatchewan (97%), and Quebec (81%).

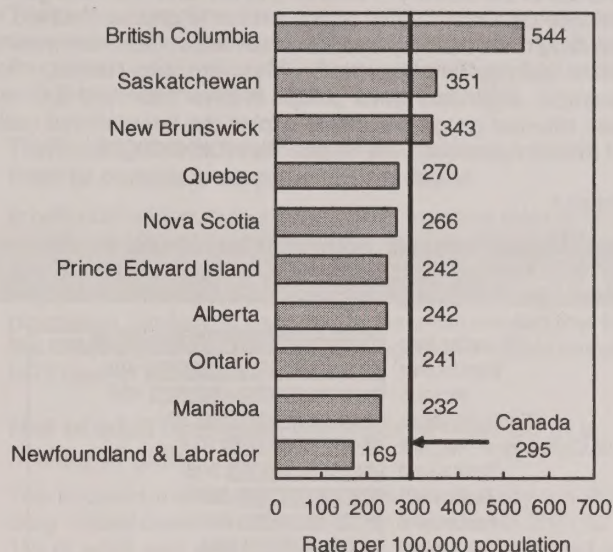
Rates of police-reported drug offences were high among the territories, Northwest Territories (896) being the highest, followed by Nunavut (878), and Yukon (501).

Rates of drug offences among Canadian cities

Among Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas¹² (CMAs) (Figure 4) in 2002, the highest rates per 100,000 population of police reported drug offences were found in Thunder Bay (571), Vancouver (468), and Victoria (459). CMAs with the lowest rates include Kitchener (151), followed by Edmonton (166) and St. John's (174). Table 5 shows that rates of drug offences across CMAs have varied considerably since the early 1990's,

Figure 3

British Columbia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick had highest drug-related offence rates among the provinces in 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

although rates in Vancouver and Victoria were among the highest in each year.

There are many factors that may contribute to the variability in rates across jurisdictions and over time. These factors include differences in, and changes to, local police resources and enforcement priorities. The same holds true for differences, or shifts, in the demographic profile of the area. Although the number of arrests does not necessarily reflect an increase in the use of illegal drugs, as indicated earlier, research has shown that self-reported drug use among youth has increased over the past decade (Adlaf, et al., 2001; Poulin et al., 1999). Jurisdictions with a high proportion of youth may also have higher rates of drug-related offences. Rates of drug offences are highest in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and data from the 2001 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada 2002) show that these territories have the lowest median¹³ age of the population (22 and 30 respectively compared to the Canadian average of 38).

11. No other age group exceeded 18 – 24 year olds in any offence category, though in some cases where the rates are low for all age groups, rates may be identical (e.g., violation rates for cannabis production is 15 per 100,000 for both 18 – 24 year-olds and 25 – 34 year-olds)

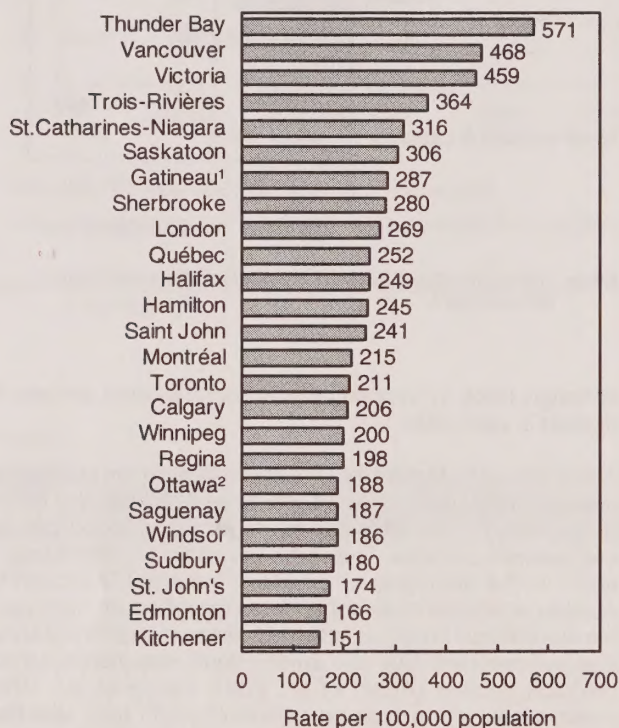
12. A census metropolitan area (CMA) is a large urban area (known as the urban core) together with adjacent urban and rural areas (known as urban and rural fringes) that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. A CMA has an urban core population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census. Once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if the population of its urban core declines below 100,000. A CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

13. The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

CMA's near international airports or marine ports along the Pacific or Atlantic coast lines, as well as inland water ways such as the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, have been major access points for the movement of contraband in and out of the country. According to the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC), organized crime groups involved in the drug trade have a presence at several of Canada's marine ports, particularly Vancouver, Montréal and Halifax. For example, organized crime groups in lower mainland B.C. are well situated geographically to exploit the international trade of illicit drugs around the Pacific Rim (CISC 2002).

Figure 4

Drug-related offences in Thunder Bay almost 4 times the rate for Kitchener in 2002



Note: The Oshawa CMA is excluded due to the incongruity between the police boundary and the CMA boundary.

1. Includes the Gatineau portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

2. Includes the Ottawa portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Clearance rates are declining for drug-related offences

The overall clearance rate for offences in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey (i.e., *Criminal Code* and *Other Federal Statutes*) has remained relatively stable at 39%, varying no more than 3 or 4 percent over the period 1977 – 2002. Meanwhile the drug offence clearance rate¹⁴ has fallen from 91% to 76% over the same period, particularly as a result of cannabis possession which fell from 94% to 84%. Further to this, the rate per 100,000 for drug-related incidents that were "cleared otherwise" increased from 26 per 100,000 population to 71 per 100,000 population over the period 1992 to 2002,

suggesting a trend toward diversion for such offences. According to the UCR2 survey for 2002, 11% of all drug-related cases are diverted from the court system to some form of alternative measure (such as community service, compensation or counselling).

The Courts and Drug Offences, 2001/02^{15,16,17,18}

For the eight provinces and one territory providing drug case data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS)¹⁹ in 2001/02, drug offences represented 9% of all adult criminal court cases²⁰ of which 5% were for possession and 4% were for trafficking. Drug-related cases accounted for 7% of cases processed in youth courts (5% for possession; 2% for trafficking).²¹

Younger adults were over-represented in court cases

In keeping with police-reported statistics, younger adults were over-represented in court as compared to adults aged 45 years and older. In 2001/02, 18 to 24 year-olds comprised 12% of the population, but accounted for 41% of all drug cases in adult criminal court.²² Adults 25 to 44 years of age represented 41% of the population, but accounted for 51% of the total drug cases. In contrast, persons 45 to 54 years of age, and those aged 55 and older represented 19% and 28% of the adult population respectively, but appeared in only 7% and 2% of drug cases, respectively.

14. "Clearance rate" is the number of incidents cleared by charge and cleared otherwise in the reporting period, divided by the actual number of incidents in the reporting period.

15. Since the introduction of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) in 1996, and related to updates to data collection process in all jurisdictions, some offences which should have been coded as drug offences were initially coded to residual federal statutes. These updates to data collection processes are ongoing and as a result, analysis of court statistics will be limited to 2001/02.

16. For information on drug treatment courts, refer to Box 4.

17. This section includes a descriptive overview of case outcomes for drug offences in Canada. Many important factors could not be controlled for in this analysis, such as the criminal record of the accused and the type of drug(s) involved, which would explain some of the differences in the severity of sentences imposed.

18. The primary unit of analysis in the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS) is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. The information used to describe a case reflects the most serious offence for that case.

19. The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) collects data on disposed federal statute charges from adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory. Jurisdictions reporting to the ACCS include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. In addition, in 2001/02 Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS. ACCS data in this section does not cover Quebec, where most drug offences are reported to the ACCS under residual federal statutes, and Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut which did not report to the ACCS in 2001/02. As a result, this section represents approximately 70% of the drug cases heard in adult criminal courts in Canada.

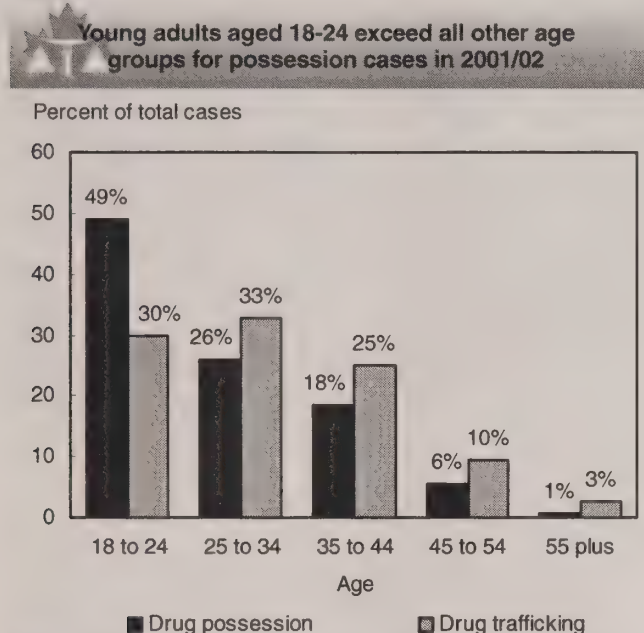
20. Individuals included in the ACCS are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court.

21. Youth courts provide data to the Youth Court Survey (YCS), a census of Criminal Code and Other Federal Statute offences heard for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

22. Excludes cases where age of the accused was unknown (less than 2% of all cases).

When possession and trafficking court cases are compared by age group, there is a clear difference with 18 to 24 year-olds accounting for 49% of cases involving possession offences and 30% of trafficking offence cases while those aged 25 to 34 are responsible for 26% of possession cases and 33% of trafficking cases (Figure 5).

Figure 5



Notes: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

ACCS data for this figure does not cover Quebec, where most drug offences are reported under residual federal statutes, and Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut which did not report to the ACCS in 2001/02. As a result, this section represents approximately 70% of the drug cases heard in adult criminal courts in Canada. Excludes cases where the age of the accused was not known (possession cases - 326; trafficking cases - 506).

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Seven out of ten youth court drug cases involved 16 and 17 year-olds

Sixteen and seventeen-year-olds appeared more often in youth court for drug offences than younger accused. In 2001/02, 16-year-olds accounted for 30% of drug cases and 17-year-olds made up 39%. Accused persons aged 15 appeared in 18% of all drug cases, while those aged 12, 13 and 14 showed proportionately less involvement, accounting for 1%, 3% and 9% of cases, respectively.

Youth court caseloads reflect police charging practices. That is, the composition and distribution of offences appearing in youth court are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge alternative measures programs and pre-court diversion programs, some young offenders are diverted away from the criminal justice system.²³

Trafficking cases involved multiple charges more frequently than possession cases

Adult criminal court cases involving multiple charges,²⁴ which can be more complex and more serious than single-charge cases, accounted for 41% of drug cases in 2001/02. Approxi-

mately 18% of possession cases involved multiple charges. The figure for trafficking was notably higher, standing at 69% making it the offence with the third highest proportion of multiple charge cases.

The percentage of multiple charge cases heard in youth courts was lower than adult criminal courts, accounting for 27% of drug cases in 2001/02 (12% of possession cases had multiple charges, while the figure for trafficking was 58%).

Trafficking cases required almost twice as much time to complete as possession cases

In both adult and youth courts, trafficking cases took twice as long to complete as did possession cases. For example, the mean elapsed time to complete a case from first to last appearance in adult criminal courts was 241 days for drug trafficking and 130 days for drug possession. Similarly, in youth courts, the mean elapsed time from first to last appearance for drug trafficking was 134 days compared to 77 days for possession.

Half of adult and youth court cases resulted in a finding of guilt

The accused was found guilty in five out of every ten (53%) drug-related cases heard in adult criminal court in 2001/02. In 1% of adult and youth court drug cases, the accused was acquitted. Forty-two percent of cases resulted in charges being stayed, withdrawn or dismissed, and 4% had an 'Other' decision (including circumstances such as accused unfit to stand trial and cases transferred in, or out, of province) (Table 6).

Cases resulting in a finding of guilt for at least one charge accounted for 54% of cases completed in youth court. One percent of cases resulted in an acquittal. Cases were stayed or withdrawn in 44% of cases (Table 8).

While youth were less likely to be found guilty in drug possession cases than adults (49% vs. 59%), they were more likely to be convicted for drug trafficking cases than adults (64% vs. 46%).

Trafficking treated more harshly than possession offences in adult and youth courts

Sentences for trafficking tended to be more severe in adult and youth court, both in type and duration. In adult criminal court, a prison term was the most common sentence imposed for drug trafficking cases (42%) compared with 12% of possession cases. Similarly, probation was imposed slightly more commonly in trafficking cases than for possession (30% vs. 28%). Conversely, a fine was the more prevalent sentence in possession cases (57%). Fines were only imposed in 20% of trafficking cases (Figure 6).²⁵

In youth courts, custody (secure or open) was a more common sanction for trafficking (21%) compared to possession (5%). However, probation was assigned most frequently as a sanction

23. These programs are generally reserved for first-time offenders and are often limited to specific types of less serious offences, although young offenders committing more serious offences can be considered for acceptance in the program in most jurisdictions.

24. The classification of a case as a single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges heard in the case, not just those charges resulting in a finding of guilt.

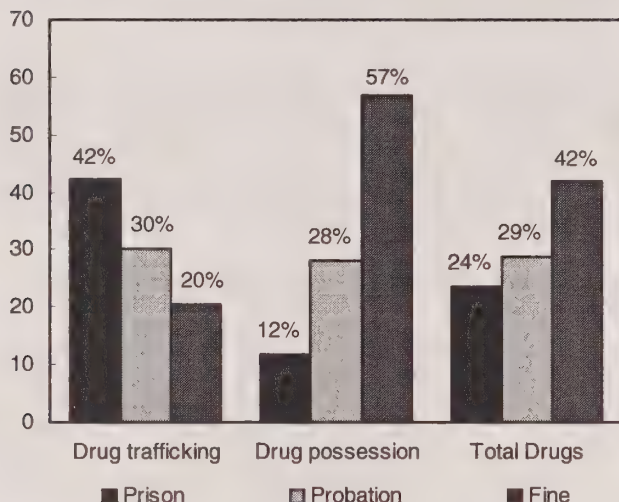
25. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

(in 83% of convicted trafficking cases and 56% of possession cases). In contrast, fines were imposed more commonly for possession (22%) than trafficking (9%) convictions (Figure 7).

Figure 6

Trafficking offences more commonly received a prison sentence while fines were normally imposed for possession offences in adult criminal court

Percent of convicted cases



Notes: Excludes conditional sentences, restitution, absolute or conditional discharges and other sentences. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%. The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) collects data on disposed federal statute charges from adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory. Jurisdictions reporting to the ACCS include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. In addition, in 2001/02 Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS. ACCS data for this figure does not cover Quebec, where most drug offences are reported under residual federal statutes, and Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut which did not report to the ACCS in 2001/02. As a result, this section represents approximately 70% of the drug cases heard in adult criminal courts in Canada.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

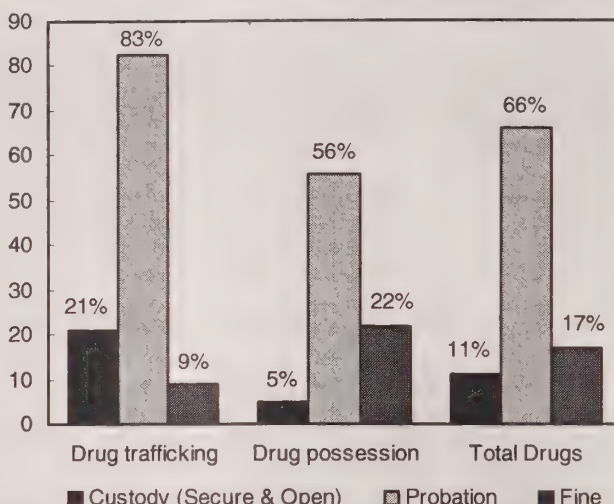
When a prison sentence was imposed for possession in adult criminal court, the mean length of custody²⁶ was less than one month (22 days) compared to over 7 months (220 days) for trafficking. Also, probation and fine dispositions handed down in cases of trafficking were harsher than possession cases. The mean length of a probation sentence was 10 months (299 days) for drug possession offences, compared to a mean length of 14 months (418 days) for trafficking offences. Finally, the mean fine for drug trafficking was considerably larger than for drug possession cases (\$1,417 compared to \$332) (Table 7).

Similarly, in youth courts, custodial sentences for drug trafficking were substantially longer than those imposed for possession in 2001/02. The mean sentence for drug trafficking was 73 days for secure custody and 80 for open custody (Table 9) whereas drug possession offences received a mean term of 27 days and 52 days for open and secure custody respectively. The mean term of probation sentences was 10 months (294 days) for drug possession offences. Trafficking sentences tended to be longer with a mean probation term of 1 year

Figure 7

Probation and custody most commonly ordered for drug trafficking in youth court

Percent of convicted cases



Notes: Excludes community service and other sentences. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of Criminal Code and Other Federal Statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

(357 days). The mean fine for drug trafficking was also larger than for drug possession (\$311 compared to \$156).

Box 4

Drug Treatment Courts

The first Canadian Drug Treatment Court (DTC) was launched in Toronto in December 1998 as an alternative to the conventional court process for people with a recognizable drug addiction who are facing non-violent drug-related offences (i.e., simple possession, possession for the purposes of trafficking, and trafficking) (James and Sawka 2000).²⁷ The goals of the program are (1) to increase public safety by reducing drug abuse and drug-related criminal behaviour through treatment, and (2) to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of judicially supervised treatment as an alternative to incarceration (Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, 1998). Potential court participants are approved by the Crown prosecutor following screening and assessment by the treatment provider (the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health - CAMH). The court sits twice per week and a team meeting (including the judge, Crown, duty counsel, court liaison officer, treatment case manager and probation officer) occurs prior to each sitting. The treatment component of the Toronto Drug Court program may last a year or more, and success is measured by a variety of indicators (such as abstinence/reduced alcohol/drug use, housing stability, employment and school enrolment) (Smith, 1999). In addition to judicially supervised treatment and program monitoring, participants are referred to a range of community-based social services to enhance long-term social stability and functioning (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health 1999).

A similar drug treatment court has since been adopted in Vancouver, and Health Canada and Justice Canada have announced plans to establish as many as three new drug treatment courts in 2004 (James and Sawka 2000).

26. The mean prison sentence length calculation excludes cases where the prison sentence length was not known and cases sentenced to an indeterminate sentence length.

27. The drug court concept originated in Miami, Florida in 1989 (James and Sawka 2000).

Box 5

Interpreting Impaired Driving Statistics

Police-reported impaired driving incidents have declined over the past 20 years. The 2002 rate of 321 per 100,000 population is 65% lower than the peak rate of 930 per 100,000 in 1981.

There has been considerable debate concerning the factors influencing the trends in police-reported impaired driving offences. These include legislative changes, enforcement practices by the police, as well as important demographic shifts in the population and changing attitudes on drinking and driving.

Some would argue that more restrictive laws have had an impact on the rate of impaired driving incidents (Safety Research Office 1998; McCartt, Shabanova & Berning 2002; Quaye & Boase 2002; Solomon & Chamberlain 2002). Trend data however, indicate that the rates started to decrease before the introduction of these stiffer laws. The rate of impaired driving started to decrease during the early 1980s and continued into the 1990s. As a result of intense interest in this issue, both within the public and in government, actions were taken on a number of fronts including the introduction of provincial/territorial legislation related to impaired driving, with such provisions as ignition interlock programs and vehicle forfeiture. Changes were made to the *Criminal Code*, and Health Canada launched its Dialogue on Drinking program in the early 1980s. The program heavily stressed the creation of public awareness to reduce the problem of impaired driving, in co-operation with the provinces and territories. A number of community awareness activities were organized, and numerous messages were broadcast on radio and television.

Other explanations for the overall decrease in the rate of impaired driving offences in the 1980s and 1990s concern the increased use of roadside suspensions by police. In 1997, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Transport Canada commissioned the National Survey of Front-Line Police Officers. In the study, which asked questions on police officer attitudes toward impaired driving, respondents indicated that they were likely to use roadside suspensions for cases where the blood-alcohol content (BAC) was slightly over the legal limit. In addition, the study concluded that the increase in the use of roadside suspensions is due to some of the following reasons: (i) time required to formally charge a person under the *Criminal Code*; (ii) resources required to process charges; and (iii) the fact that roadside suspensions immediately get impaired drivers off the road (Transport Canada 1999).

The general decline in crime rates since the early 1990s coincided with a decrease in the proportion of young adults in the general population. Since young adults have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups, crime rates can be expected to decline as their share of the population declines (Ouinmet 2002). This can help explain the downward trend in the rate of impaired driving offences.

Also, some evidence suggests that individuals are more frequently choosing alternative means of transportation or relying on "designated drivers" when consuming alcohol outside the home. The drop in impaired driving rates occurred despite little change in alcohol consumption over the last decade.

For a more detailed analysis of drinking and driving offences in Canada, see Janhevich et al., 2003.

Box 6

The effects of drug use when driving a motor vehicle

In Canada, the following provisions regarding drug use are set out in the *Criminal Code*. Subsection 253(a) of the *Criminal Code* makes it an offence to operate a motor vehicle while the driver's ability to do so is impaired by a drug or alcohol. Police may only seek a warrant under section 256 to obtain a blood sample from an unconscious driver where they believe the driver to be impaired by alcohol or a drug and to have been involved in a collision where there was injury or death. Otherwise, police powers for obtaining evidence of the s. 253(a) drug impaired driving offence are limited, compared to situations involving suspects who have a BAC exceeding 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of blood (s. 253(b)). In fact, a police officer has no authority under the *Code* to demand that a suspect provide evidence in the form of a bodily substance for the purposes of drug testing, even if there are reasonable grounds to believe the suspect is impaired by a drug. Subsection 258(5) does authorize testing for drugs on a blood sample that has been obtained for alcohol testing through a section 254 demand. However, in some jurisdictions, there is a program to assist officers to recognize the presence of drugs. Under this program, first developed in the United States, police officers are trained to assess the behaviour and physical appearance of impaired drivers to determine whether they are under the influence of a drug, and if so, to identify the category of drugs involved.

The most commonly used drugs that are likely to interfere with driving have the following effects:

Cannabis: - Disruption of vision, especially night vision; increased recovery time after exposure to glare; poor appreciation of distances; poor colour perception, difficulties coming out of a turn; and difficulties concentrating.

Heroin and morphine: Loss of attention; diminished reflexes, sense of reality and awareness of danger and obstacles. In low dosage: risk of loss of control of vehicle through drowsiness, cardiac or respiratory pain. In high dosage: delirium, hallucinations, motor excitement.

Cocaine: Sensation of euphoria with excessive self-confidence, desire to perform, alteration of vision, increased risk-taking, and aggressiveness.

Ecstasy-type derivatives: Fatigue, fever, muscular rigidity, and accommodation problems (owing to mydriasis, or dilation of the pupil).

The use of alcohol and drugs in violent crime

The role of alcohol and drugs in physical and sexual assault²⁸

According to data from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization, in approximately 51% of physical assault incidents (an estimated 636,000) and 48% of sexual assaults (241,000) the victim believed that the incident was related to the perpetrator's use of alcohol or drugs. Male victims of physical assault were more likely than female victims (58% compared to 39%) to believe that the incident was related to the perpetrator's substance use.²⁹ Sexual and physical assaults committed by strangers were more often thought to be alcohol or drug-related than those involving friends or acquaintances (77% vs. 49% for sexual assaults, and 62% vs. 49% for physical assaults).³⁰

Some research also suggests that one's personal consumption of alcohol or drugs may place someone at greater risk of becoming a victim of crime (Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo 1978; Lasley and Rosenbaum 1988). As many people drink during social occasions at bars or restaurants, they are more likely to be in the presence of others when their own judgment is also clouded by alcohol or drugs. Rapists, for example, may attempt to use a victim's intoxication as a reason to deny blame, suggesting that they were unaware that consent was not given. As well, an unattended glass can be an opportunity to use "date-rape" drugs to gain physical control over the victim (see Box 7).

Respondents of the 1999 GSS who reported being a victim of a physical or sexual assault were asked "in your opinion, was this incident related to your own alcohol or drug use?" Only 9% of those who were physically assaulted (111,000 incidents) believed that their own use of alcohol contributed to the incident, and the number of sexual assault victims who believed their own use of alcohol was a contributing factor was too low to make a statistically reliable estimate.

28. This section excludes all physical and sexual assaults committed by spouses.

29. There were too few incidents involving the sexual assault of males to produce a statistically reliable comparison.

30. There were too few cases to report alcohol-related incidents for other victim-offender relationships.

Box 7

Date rape drugs

Certain types of "date-rape" drugs allow sexual offenders to gain physical control over their victims and often leave victims with little knowledge of what happened to them. However, it is difficult to estimate the prevalence of drug-facilitated sexual offences since data collection currently does not offer a means of measuring the number of incidents.

Victimization surveys have consistently shown that only a small percentage of sexual offence victims report these incidents to the police (Kong et al., 2003). In drug-facilitated sexual offences, particular factors may contribute to low and delayed reporting rates: victims may be left unconscious after the event and have no memory of the assault or the perpetrator even though physical evidence suggests they were sexually assaulted.

One common date-rape drug is Rohypnol (flunitrazepam), which belongs to the benzodiazepine family, and is available in a quickly dissolving pill form with effects 10 times stronger than that of Valium. It is legally manufactured in Mexico and is widely available by prescription in many countries around the world, but is not legal in Canada or the United States. GHB (gamma hydroxy butyrate), is another powerful date rape drug that is illegally manufactured, available in the form of a liquid, and acts like a depressant on the central nervous system (Fitzgerald and Riley 2000).

These drugs are inexpensive and extremely difficult to detect since they are tasteless, odourless, and colourless. Twelve to 24 hours after ingestion, they become untraceable through urine or blood tests. These drugs are often administered in an unsuspecting victim's beverage. Both drugs may begin to take effect within 10 to 30 minutes after ingestion and can last as long as 8 to 12 hours. They mentally and physically incapacitate an individual in a variety of ways and often mimic the effects of large quantities of alcohol consumption. Some of the effects of rohypnol and GHB include: sudden intoxication, drowsiness, unconsciousness, loss of inhibitions, respiratory failure, vomiting, seizures, extreme difficulty speaking and moving, dizziness, amnesia, coma, and even death (Fitzgerald and Riley 2000).

The role of alcohol in spousal violence

Research has shown that rates of domestic violence are higher for men with alcohol problems than those who do not abuse alcohol (Johnson 1996; Kantor and Straus 1990; Tolman and Bennett 1990).³¹ According to data from the 1999 GSS, women and men whose current spouses were considered "heavy drinkers"³² were almost three times as likely to be victims of spousal abuse (8%) than those whose partner drank moderately or not at all (3%). Further, among those who experienced violence by current or previous spouses, approximately 44% of women and 26% of men indicated that their partners were usually drinking at the time the assault(s) took place (Table 10).³³

Women who reported that their partners were usually drinking at the time of the assault(s) were more likely than nondrinkers (53% compared to 36%) to have serious violence used against them (being beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife, or sexually assaulted). They were also more likely to report being injured (49% compared to 35%), requiring medical attention for their injuries (18% compared to 13%), attending a hospital to treat their injuries (14% compared to 8%), and fearing their life may be in danger as a result of the violence (48% compared to 31%).

Similar differences were found among men assaulted by their intimate partners. Men whose partners were usually consuming alcohol at the time of the assault(s) were more likely than those whose partners were non-drinkers to report serious

violence was used against them (27% compared to 12%), two times more likely to report physical injuries (22% compared to 11%), four times more likely to report that fearing that their life may be in danger (17% compared to 4%), and were more than twice as likely to report having to take time off daily activities as a result of the violence (19% compared to 7%).³⁴

Heavy drinking is best understood as a *contributor* to spousal violence but it cannot be said that alcohol or drug use is a *cause* of violent behaviour. Heavy drinking may aggravate continuing marital conflict, by creating arguments about money spent on drinking, the time spent out drinking with peers, or the frequency of coming home intoxicated, which may culminate in violence (Johnson 2001 citing Dobash and Dobash 1979; 1984). Other studies suggest that both substance abuse and violence reflect other problems, such as childhood victimization or other family pathology and that drinking occasions may be seen as a "time out" where they feel they can deny culpability for their actions (Kantor and Straus 1990). Further, although alcohol use may not be a direct cause of violence, the deterioration of judgment that accompanies excessive alcohol use may contribute to more serious violence than would occur on non-drinking occasions as it may impair the perpetrator's ability to interpret the signals of their spouse and respond appropriately to stressful situations.

Violence in the drug trade

Cohen and Swift (1993) argue that the strongest link between drugs and violent crime comes from violence associated with the illegal drug market. The trafficking of illicit drugs is a key source of profit for the majority of organized crime groups in Canada (see Box 8) (Sauvé 1999; CISC 2002). Violence can be used as part of the illegal drug trade to eliminate competition, to punish informants, resolve disputes over debt collection or quality of product, or to protect the shipment of drugs. Unfortunately, this kind of systemic violence is very difficult to quantify. People who are involved in the illegal drug trade rarely report their victimization for fear of retribution or arrest.

Given the link between violence and the drug market, police respondents are asked as part of the annual *Homicide Survey*, to identify whether there is "evidence of drug trafficking or settling of drug related accounts" and if so, to specify the most serious type of drug involved.

Between 1992 and 2002, 684 (11%) homicide incidents in Canada were reported to be drug related. Cocaine was the drug most commonly involved (60%), followed by cannabis (20%). Heroin, other drugs and homicide incidents where there was evidence of unspecified drugs made up the remaining 20%. Of the 684 drug-related homicide incidents, 176 (26%) were also gang-related.

31. Although some have argued that using drugs such as amphetamines, cocaine, LSD and PCP in large quantities may cause some to experience aggressive outbursts, recent research suggests that this is more likely the result of pre-existing mental health conditions (Roth 1994; Permanen et al. 2002).

32. "Heavy drinking" is defined as drinking 5 or more beverages on a single occasion at least once in the past month.

33. Excludes "don't know" and "not stated" responses.

34. There were too few cases of male spousal assault victims that required medical attention to break down by their partners' use of alcohol.

The proportion of homicide incidents that are drug-related has remained somewhat stable between 1992 (9%) and 2002 (11%), fluctuating between a low of 9% (in 1992 and 1993) and a high of 15% (in 2000). There has been an increase over the same period (from 16% to 21%) in gang-related incidents in which drugs were involved. During this period, such gang-related incidents fluctuated between a low of 13% (in 1995) and a high of 43% (in 2000).

British Columbia (29%), Quebec (29%) and Ontario (24%) recorded the largest proportion of drug-related homicide incidents among the provinces and territories since the early 1990's. Heroin (58%) and cocaine (33%) involvement were highest in British Columbia (Table 11).

Of the 684 drug-related homicide incidents in Canada between 1992 and 2002, 19% occurred in Vancouver, 18% in Montréal and 12% in Toronto. Fully half of all homicides involving heroin (52%) and more than one-fifth of cocaine-related homicides took place in Vancouver. "Other" drug-related incidents were most common in Regina (15%). Drug offences accounted for more than a quarter (26%) of homicide incidents outside of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs).

In 1997, a new category entitled, "settling of accounts", was added to the list of possible motives for drug-related incidents. For the period 1997 to 2002, settling of accounts, ranked first at 51% among motives for drug-related homicide. This category counted well ahead of all other motives including financial gain/protection of assets (15%), argument/quarrel (14%) or unknown motive (8%). Other categories including revenge, jealousy, frustration, personal protection, hate crime or fear of apprehension made up the remaining 12%.

In approximately 4 in 10 drug-related incidents (42%), no accused could be identified. In situations where an accused could be identified, 58% were recorded as a criminal relationship followed by casual acquaintances (15%), strangers (10%) and close friends (6%). The remaining 11% of incidents included a variety of other family or non-family connections, or circumstances where the relationship was unknown.

Methodology

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

The UCR Survey counts only the most serious offence committed in each criminal incident, which consequently underestimates the total number of drug-related incidents. For example, if an incident includes both an act of violence and a drug offence only the act of violence is counted.

Incident Based UCR2 Survey - In 1988, the UCR survey was redeveloped to expand the information collected. The new

Box 8

Marihuana Grow Operations (MGOs)

Annual production of marihuana in Canada is currently estimated at 800 tonnes and the number of plants seized in Canada annually has exceeded one million for the past four years (RCMP 2003). In this environment, Marihuana Grow Operations - sites used for the cultivation and production of marihuana, have increased substantially (cultivation grew six-fold from 1993 to 2001). MGOs have spread across the country from British Columbia to the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, in particular, accounted for 88% of incidents reported in 2000 (National Coordinating Committee Working Group on Marihuana Grow Operations (NCCWG) 2003).

While MGOs can involve indoor (residential or commercial) or outdoor (farmers fields or remote locations) cultivation, indoor operations are of particular concern when set up in residential areas. Violent crime has always been an integral part of the production, trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs (murders, assaults, turf wars, home invasions, intimidation, drug rip-offs, burglaries, etc.). Residential MGOs are also safety hazards (electrical by-passes create fire and electrocution dangers), health hazards (they encourage the growth of toxic moulds), create economic losses for the community (hydro and insurance costs are shared by rate-payers), and result in more crime in the area. Finally, they contribute to the depreciation of property and homes (NCCWG on MGOs 2003).

Links to organized crime are suggested by the sheer complexity of setting up a grow operation (acquisition and development of property, security and distribution networks). It is estimated that between 65% and 98% of cannabis production is related to organized crime in Canada (Consulting and Audit Canada 2002). Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Asian Organized Crime groups are responsible for most MGO's, and operate primarily in B.C., Ontario and Quebec. To date these links have been difficult to establish in the courts as often the people caught are merely the caretakers of the crop (NCCWG on MGOs 2003).

Cross-border traffic is significant. About 50-60% of the Canadian crop may be destined for the U.S. market. However a far greater amount of marihuana is shipped to the U.S. from Mexico (NCCWG on MGOs 2003).

Incident Based (UCR2) survey, is a micro data survey that allows detailed examinations of accused and victim characteristics, as well as characteristics of the incident itself. Information in this Juristat on specific ages of accused persons is based on the results of this survey. In 2002, there were 123 police agencies in 9 provinces reporting to the UCR2. A subset of the UCR2 database, the UCR2 Research database, was used for the current Juristat. Data from this non-representative sample accounted for 56% of the national volume of crime. The UCR2 Research database includes 94 police agencies in 9 provinces. The incidents contained in the 2002 Research database were distributed as follows: 39% from Ontario, 30% from Quebec, 12% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey began collecting detailed data provided by police on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in 1961. Whenever a homicide (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) becomes known to the police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Homicides are counted in the year in which they become known to police, which may not be the year in which they actually occurred.

Box 9

Key Developments in the National Drug Strategy and Related Drug Legislation: A Chronology

November 1987 - Fourteen federal departments joined efforts under the leadership of Health Canada to launch Canada's Drug Strategy. The objectives of the strategy were to raise awareness and educate the public about the problems associated with substance abuse, to enhance the availability and accessibility of treatment and rehabilitation, to energize enforcement and control, coordinate national efforts, and cooperate with international organizations to promote a balanced approach to the global drug problem.

May 1997 - The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) was adopted in Parliament to replace both the *Narcotics Control Act* (NCA) and Parts III and IV of the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA). In addition to consolidating illicit drug legislation into one Act, the CDSA included four major changes: (1) Addition of the offence "Production of a controlled substance"; (2) Expanded the scope of offences to include substances having chemical structure similar to the current list of controlled substances; (3) Decreased some of the previous maximum sentences but increased others – for example, the maximum penalty for trafficking cannabis and possession of cannabis for the purpose of trafficking was reduced from life imprisonment to imprisonment of five years minus one day, but only if 3kg or less was involved; (4) Incorporated some changes triggered by decisions under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* – for example, the minimum sentence under the NCA for importing and exporting narcotics was seven years. The Supreme Court ruled that such a high minimum sentence of imprisonment was in violation of the *Charter*.

July 2000 - In *R. v. Parker*, [2000], (C.O.A. file No. C28732), the Court of Appeal for Ontario upheld the 1997 decision that a legislative prohibition on the possession of marihuana without an exception for medical use violated Terry Parker's right to choose helpful treatment to alleviate the effects of his epilepsy. The court declared the prohibition of marihuana possession in the CDSA of no force and unconstitutional. The court ruled that if Parliament did not clarify the law within 12 months, the law should be struck down.

July 2001 - In response to *R. v. Parker* [2000] and in recognition of the need for a more defined process than the one currently used under s.56 of the CDSA, Parliament enacted the *Medical Marihuana Access Regulations* (MMAR). The MMAR sets up a regulatory framework to allow patients with certain severe illness access to marihuana while it is being researched as a possible symptom-relieving treatment. The regulations do not, however, amend CDSA provisions criminalizing the possession, trafficking and production of cannabis.

January 2003 - In *R. v. J.P.*, [2003], (Windsor 02-Y11520), Ontario Justice Douglas Phillips threw out a marihuana charge against a 16-year-old after his lawyer argued in court that, because of the *Parker* decision, there is effectively no law prohibiting the possession of 30 grams or less of marihuana.

The argument was made that even with the enactment of the *MMAR*, which allows the possession of marihuana under certain circumstances, parliament at no time re-enacted section 4 of the CDSA as it relates to marihuana. Since this ruling, judges in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and British Columbia have followed suit and ruled in favour of persons charged with the possession of small amounts of cannabis.

May 2003 - The Minister of Health, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada announced the renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy. While focusing on prevention, education and treatment, the revised Strategy creates and supports an enforcement response to those who use or are involved in production and trafficking of illegal drugs. A biennial conference will bring all partners together for full discussions on the Strategy's directions and a report will be prepared for Parliament and Canadians every two years on the Strategy's direction and progress.

May 2003 - Bill C-38, *Act to Amend the Contraventions Act and Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, was introduced into the House of Commons May 27, 2003. The Bill proposes the decriminalization of possessing small quantities of marihuana, held for personal use, and introduces fines. However, criminal convictions will continue to be sought in cases where there are aggravating circumstances surrounding the possession. The proposed legislation also strengthens penalties against traffickers and producers, and directs further resources to tackling increased production. Under Bill C-38, possession and cultivation in marihuana remain illegal in Canada, fulfilling Canada's obligations under United Nations drug conventions.

June 2003 - Health Canada approved in principle the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's application for an exemption under Section 56 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) to launch a supervised injection site pilot research project.

September 2003 - The first supervised drug injection site officially opened in Vancouver, British Columbia (see Box 2).

October 2003 - *R. v. P.(J)*. (C.O.A. file no. C40043). The Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed the federal government's appeal under the *Y.O.A.* of Justice Phillips decision in *R. v. J.P.* (January, 2003). The court confirmed that the offence of possession of marihuana in section 4 of the *CDSA* was of no force when the youth was charged, as there was no constitutionally valid medical exemption to the prohibition of marihuana.

October 2003 - *Parker v. R.; Hitzig et al. v. R.; Paquette and Turmel v. R.* (C.O.A. file nos. C39532, C39738, C39740). The Ontario Court of Appeal struck down provisions of the *MMAR* relating to the second specialist requirement to obtain an authorization to possess marihuana (ATP), and restrictions on cultivation by a designate (DPL) which drives ATP holders to an often unsafe black market to obtain their marihuana. As only sections of the *MMAR* were found to be constitutionally defective, the marihuana prohibition contained in section 4 of the *CDSA* was found to be constitutionally valid, and of full force and effect.

General Social Survey on Victimization

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS has a particular focus. In 1988, 1993 and 1999, the focus of the GSS was on crime and victimization.

In 1999, approximately 26,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older residing in households were interviewed by telephone about their experiences of victimization. As with previous cycles, the response rate was quite high – 81.3%. Responses were weighted to represent the approximately 24.3 million non-institutionalized persons 15 years of age and older in the Canadian population. Given this sample size, an estimate of a proportion of the population, expressed as a percentage, is expected to be within approximately 0.8% of the true proportion 19 times out of 20. Estimates for sub-samples of the population will have wider confidence intervals.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides statistical information on the processing of cases through provincial/territorial adult criminal court systems. Coverage in 2001/02 stood at 90% of all adult criminal court cases. One province and two territories (Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut) are not included in the survey at this time.

There is slight under-coverage (i.e., less than 5%) of completed cases in British Columbia for 2001/02. Also, information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) is not yet collected. With the exception of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts.

The absence of data from all but five superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of

sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an over-count of residual federal statute cases. Those jurisdictions reporting on adult criminal court drug cases represent an estimated 70% of the national caseload.

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and Other federal statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Alternative Measures (AM) programs are generally reserved for first-time offenders and are often limited to specific types of less serious offences, although young offenders committing more serious offences can be considered for acceptance in the program in most jurisdictions. Alternative measures cases are excluded from the Youth Court Survey data either in the jurisdiction or at the CCJS, if they are identified. Nevertheless, differences in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

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Table 1

Drug incidents reported by police by type of offence, Canada, 1977-2002

	Offence Type											
	Total drug offences			Possession			Trafficking			Importation & Production		
	No.	Rate ¹	% change in rate*	No.	Rate ¹	% change in rate*	No.	Rate ¹	% change in rate*	No.	Rate ¹	% change in rate*
2002	92,590	295	3	61,166	195	5	19,970	64	-2	11,454	36	0
2001 ^r	89,395	287	0	57,852	186	4	20,173	65	-8	11,370	37	-3
2000	88,091	286	9	54,815	178	12	21,616	70	6	11,660	38	1
1999	80,142	263	12	48,590	159	11	20,145	66	12	11,407	37	18
1998	70,922	234	6	43,516	144	4	17,808	59	2	9,598	32	19
1997	66,593	222	0	41,297	138	-2	17,299	58	-4	7,997	27	30
1996	65,729	222	6	41,726	141	7	17,913	60	2	6,090	21	6
1995	61,613	210	1	38,560	131	1	17,394	59	-4	5,659	19	22
1994	60,153	207	5	37,704	130	9	17,874	62	-5	4,575	16	14
1993	56,817	198	-5	34,170	119	0	18,672	65	-11	3,975	14	-10
1992	58,881	207	2	33,786	119	4	20,708	73	-6	4,387	15	42
1991	57,093	204	-7	32,221	115	-17	21,818	78	6	3,054	11	38
1990	60,645	219	-11	38,187	138	-13	20,268	73	-8	2,190	8	-7
1989	66,961	245	11	43,053	158	8	21,590	79	17	2,318	8	14
1988	59,430	222	-5	39,322	147	-6	18,118	68	-3	1,990	7	-5
1987	61,658	233	8	41,182	156	3	18,411	70	22	2,065	8	19
1986	56,251	216	-3	39,596	152	-7	14,941	57	8	1,714	7	11
1985	57,205	221	3	42,039	163	1	13,639	53	13	1,527	6	-5
1984	54,950	215	-1	41,386	162	5	11,979	47	-14	1,585	6	-14
1983	54,847	216	-16	39,230	155	-18	13,792	54	-14	1,825	7	18
1982	64,636	257	-15	47,190	188	-21	15,912	63	4	1,534	6	40
1981	75,104	303	0	58,838	237	-1	15,183	61	3	1,083	4	-9
1980	74,196	303	13	58,459	238	13	14,566	59	15	1,171	5	3
1979	64,923	268	6	51,279	212	5	12,522	52	12	1,122	5	-17
1978	60,747	253	-9	48,325	202	-12	11,088	46	1	1,334	6	33
1977	65,938	278	...	54,130	228	...	10,816	46	...	992	4	...
% change in rate 1992-2002*			42				64				-13	136

^r revised

... not applicable

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Drug incidents reported by police, by type of drug involved and type of offence, Canada, 1977-2002

	Cannabis								Cocaine							
	Possession		Trafficking		Importation & Production		Total		Possession		Trafficking		Importation & Production		Total	
	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹
2002	50,246	160	10,843	35	8,900	28	69,989	223	5,910	19	6,084	19	437	1	12,431	40
2001 ^r	47,720	153	10,824	35	9,377	30	67,921	218	5,403	17	6,267	20	475	2	12,145	39
2000	45,407	147	10,708	35	10,159	33	66,274	215	4,942	16	7,489	24	398	1	12,829	42
1999	39,594	130	10,295	34	10,122	33	60,011	197	4,759	16	6,868	23	336	1	11,963	39
1998	34,419	114	7,940	26	8,558	28	50,917	168	4,861	16	7,013	23	309	1	12,183	40
1997	32,696	109	7,925	26	7,312	24	47,933	160	4,782	16	6,389	21	297	1	11,468	38
1996	33,238	112	8,420	28	5,576	19	47,234	159	4,846	16	6,262	21	370	1	11,478	39
1995	30,505	104	8,206	28	5,134	17	43,845	149	4,824	16	6,188	21	357	1	11,369	39
1994	28,362	98	8,128	28	4,006	14	40,496	139	5,605	19	6,361	22	373	1	12,339	42
1993	24,279	85	8,294	29	3,422	12	35,995	125	5,475	19	6,672	23	376	1	12,523	44
1992	23,178	82	8,074	28	3,741	13	34,993	123	6,082	21	7,676	27	381	1	14,139	50
1991	21,921	78	8,780	31	2,566	9	33,267	119	6,172	22	9,647	34	295	1	16,114	57
1990	27,344	99	9,853	36	1,613	6	38,810	140	5,286	19	7,153	26	326	1	12,765	46
1989	28,773	105	9,738	36	1,732	6	40,243	147	6,960	26	8,849	32	349	1	16,158	59
1988	29,266	109	9,203	34	1,561	6	40,030	149	4,960	19	5,787	22	289	1	11,036	41
1987	30,856	117	10,599	40	1,617	6	43,072	163	3,675	14	4,216	16	311	1	8,202	31
1986	31,766	122	8,645	33	1,103	4	41,514	159	3,117	12	3,326	13	286	1	6,729	26
1985	34,665	134	7,963	31	1,175	5	43,803	169	2,333	9	2,349	9	218	1	4,900	19
1984	35,587	139	7,067	28	1,263	5	43,917	172	2,001	8	1,904	7	214	1	4,119	16
1983	34,364	135	8,065	32	1,370	5	43,799	173	1,350	5	1,664	7	261	1	3,275	13
1982	42,030	167	10,521	42	1,107	4	53,658	214	1,203	5	1,273	5	262	1	2,738	11
1981	54,277	219	10,656	43	830	3	65,763	265	1,026	4	1,010	4	153	1	2,189	9
1980	53,999	220	9,883	40	984	4	64,866	265	697	3	893	4	114	0	1,704	7
1979	47,439	196	8,431	35	964	4	56,834	235	495	2	554	2	93	0	1,142	5
1978	44,604	186	7,634	32	1,140	5	53,378	223	383	2	543	2	104	0	1,030	4
1977	50,168	211	7,504	32	809	3	58,481	246	434	2	388	2	75	0	897	4
% change in rate 1992-2002*	96		21		115		81		-12		-28		4		-21	

	Heroin								Other Drugs							
	Possession		Trafficking		Importation & Production		Total		Possession		Trafficking		Importation & Production		Total	
	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ¹
2002	422	1	314	1	51	0	787	3	4,588	15	2,729	9	2,066	7	9,383	30
2001 ^r	494	2	399	1	58	0	951	3	4,235	14	2,683	9	1,460	5	8,378	27
2000	582	2	604	2	40	0	1,226	4	3,884	13	2,815	9	1,063	3	7,762	25
1999	599	2	693	2	31	0	1,323	4	3,638	12	2,289	8	918	3	6,845	22
1998	614	2	652	2	57	0	1,323	4	3,622	12	2,203	7	674	2	6,499	21
1997	513	2	654	2	68	0	1,235	4	3,306	11	2,331	8	320	1	5,957	20
1996	509	2	695	2	83	0	1,287	4	3,133	11	2,536	9	61	0	5,730	19
1995	460	2	660	2	116	0	1,236	4	2,771	9	2,340	8	52	0	5,163	18
1994	693	2	796	3	118	0	1,607	6	3,044	10	2,589	9	78	0	5,711	20
1993	646	2	819	3	130	0	1,595	6	3,770	13	2,887	10	47	0	6,704	23
1992	527	2	723	3	199	1	1,449	5	3,999	14	4,235	15	66	0	8,300	29
1991	467	2	748	3	147	1	1,362	5	3,661	13	2,643	9	46	0	6,350	23
1990	469	2	602	2	135	0	1,206	4	5,088	18	2,660	10	116	0	7,864	28
1989	411	2	426	2	117	0	954	3	6,909	25	2,577	9	120	0	9,606	35
1988	386	1	455	2	96	0	937	3	4,710	18	2,673	10	44	0	7,427	28
1987	309	1	360	1	96	0	765	3	6,342	24	3,236	12	41	0	9,619	36
1986	302	1	357	1	255	1	914	4	4,411	17	2,613	10	70	0	7,094	27
1985	256	1	480	2	91	0	827	3	4,785	19	2,847	11	43	0	7,675	30
1984	250	1	324	1	60	0	634	2	3,548	14	2,684	10	48	0	6,280	25
1983	368	1	460	2	114	0	942	4	3,148	12	3,603	14	80	0	6,831	27
1982	304	1	340	1	90	0	734	3	3,653	15	3,778	15	75	0	7,506	30
1981	247	1	270	1	66	0	583	2	3,288	13	3,247	13	34	0	6,569	26
1980	294	1	283	1	46	0	623	3	3,469	14	3,507	14	27	0	7,003	29
1979	270	1	261	1	44	0	575	2	3,075	13	3,276	14	21	0	6,372	26
1978	586	2	598	2	37	0	1,221	5	2,752	11	2,313	10	53	0	5,118	21
1977	622	3	362	2	53	0	1,037	4	2,906	12	2,462	10	55	0	5,423	23
% change in rate 1992-2002*	-28		-61		-77		-51		4		-42		2,728		2	

^r revised

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002. The large change in rate for Other Drugs - Importation and Production results from an increase in very small counts over the period 1992-2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3



Drug-related crime rate¹ per 100,000 population by age group, (UCR2)², 2002

	Age Group						Total
	12 - 17	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55+	
Cannabis							
Possession	478	502	112	58	20	2	133
Trafficking	101	121	44	31	15	3	40
Importation and Production	5	16	17	13	7	2	10
Cocaine							
Possession	9	58	38	28	7	1	21
Trafficking	19	91	49	28	12	2	29
Importation and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heroin							
Possession	0	3	2	1	0	0	1
Trafficking	1	4	2	1	0	0	1
Importation and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Drugs							
Possession	22	34	12	6	2	0	9
Trafficking	12	30	11	6	3	1	8
Importation and Production	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	645	860	288	174	68	11	253

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

2. The incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. A subset of the UCR2 database, the UCR2 Research database, was used for the current Juristat. Data from this non-representative subset of police services accounted for 56% of the national volume of crime. The UCR2 Research database includes 94 police agencies in 9 provinces.

Source: Incident-based (UCR2) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Drug offences reported by police, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1992-2002

	2002	2001 ^r	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	% change in rate 1992-2002*
CANADA												
No.	92,590	89,395	88,091	80,142	70,922	66,593	65,729	61,613	60,153	56,817	58,881	
Rate ¹	295	287	286	263	234	222	222	210	207	198	207	42
% change in rate*	3	0	9	12	6	0	6	1	5	-5	...	
Newfoundland and Labrador												
No.	900	922	990	876	823	730	904	1,027	852	785	818	
Rate ¹	169	173	184	162	151	132	161	181	148	135	141	20
% change in rate*	-2	-6	14	7	15	-18	-11	22	10	-4	...	
Prince Edward Island												
No.	339	276	236	226	251	305	330	262	246	204	209	
Rate ¹	242	199	171	164	183	223	242	194	184	154	160	52
% change in rate*	22	17	4	-11	-18	-8	25	6	19	-3	...	
Nova Scotia												
No.	2,515	1,991	2,147	2,285	2,030	2,106	1,910	1,833	2,055	1,923	1,969	
Rate ¹	266	211	228	243	217	225	205	198	222	208	214	24
% change in rate*	26	-7	-6	12	-4	10	4	-11	7	-3	...	
New Brunswick												
No.	2,596	2,622	2,398	2,511	2,084	1,779	1,672	1,546	1,237	1,204	1,096	
Rate ¹	343	347	317	332	277	236	222	206	165	161	146	134
% change in rate*	-1	9	-5	20	17	6	8	25	3	10	...	
Quebec												
No.	20,166	19,109	19,144	17,327	14,592	13,885	14,218	12,391	11,847	11,185	10,639	
Rate ¹	270	258	259	236	199	190	195	171	164	156	150	81
% change in rate*	5	-1	10	18	5	-3	14	4	5	4	...	
Ontario												
No.	29,027	28,147	29,226	25,602	24,179	20,947	20,688	18,915	18,330	17,607	18,619	
Rate ¹	241	237	250	222	212	186	186	173	169	165	176	37
% change in rate*	2	-5	12	5	14	0	8	2	3	-6	...	
Manitoba												
No.	2,672	2,482	2,099	1,917	1,965	2,149	1,880	1,792	1,682	1,683	2,262	
Rate ¹	232	216	183	168	173	189	166	159	150	150	203	14
% change in rate*	7	18	9	-3	-9	14	4	6	-1	-26	...	
Saskatchewan												
No.	3,552	2,819	2,343	2,598	2,362	2,094	2,054	1,770	1,651	1,745	1,791	
Rate ¹	351	277	229	253	230	205	201	175	164	173	178	97
% change in rate*	27	21	-9	10	12	2	15	7	-6	-3	...	
Alberta												
No.	7,525	7,221	6,979	5,800	5,354	5,121	5,226	4,837	5,286	6,234	5,685	
Rate ¹	242	236	232	196	184	180	188	177	195	233	216	12
% change in rate*	3	2	18	6	2	-4	6	-10	-16	8	...	
British Columbia												
No.	22,525	23,180	21,924	20,404	16,840	16,879	16,174	16,651	16,409	13,728	15,279	
Rate ¹	544	565	540	507	421	426	417	440	446	384	440	24
% change in rate*	-4	5	7	20	-1	2	-5	-1	16	-13	...	
Yukon												
No.	150	155	109	130	121	141	196	188	182	147	172	
Rate ¹	501	514	356	419	384	437	614	609	606	480	569	-12
% change in rate*	-3	44	-15	9	-12	-29	1	0	26	-16	...	
Northwest Territories²												
No.	371	242	262	301	220	336	302	210	234	372	342	
Rate ¹	896	587	641	735	536	804	722	506	575	585	548	...
% change in rate*	53	-8	-13	37	-33	11	43	-12	-2	7	...	
Nunavut²												
No.	252	229	234	165								
Rate ¹	878	815	851	614								
% change in rate*	8	-4	39	...								

... not applicable

^r revised

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

2. In 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. Data for 1999 onward for the Northwest Territories cannot be compared to data prior to 1999. For this reason, no percentage change in rate is provided for the Northwest Territories for the period 1992-2002 as rates may not be comparable over the entire period.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Drug offences reported by police by Census Metropolitan Area¹, 1991-2002

		2002	2001 ¹	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	% change in rate 1991-2002*
Calgary	No.	2,035	1,859	1,559	1,166	1,052	934	863	699	880	922	878	1,055	50
	Rate ²	206	192	165	126	117	107	102	84	108	116	112	137	
Edmonton	No.	1,610	1,636	1,938	1,672	1,488	1,419	1,353	1,307	1,599	1,515	1,611	1,498	-5
	Rate ²	166	171	205	179	163	158	153	148	181	172	185	175	
Gatineau ⁴	No.	777	817	724	698	618	615	625	472	382	440	316	271	147
	Rate ²	287	307	275	268	243	243	248	188	154	180	132	116	
Halifax	No.	933	676	633	832	591	626	556	444	532	426	523	575	42
	Rate ²	249	182	172	237	169	181	163	130	157	127	158	176	
Hamilton	No.	1,614	1,517	1,429	1,073	1,002	788	865	887	848	759	886	734	107
	Rate ²	245	232	221	167	152	121	135	138	133	120	141	118	
Kitchener	No.	699	618	667	618	525	563	543	442	586	477	524	289	104
	Rate ²	151	135	149	140	121	132	130	106	143	118	132	74	
London	No.	1,025	964	888	867	900	874	811	693	699	552	338	356	199
	Rate ²	269	254	235	201	216	212	198	168	171	137	84	90	
Montréal	No.	7,579	6,908	6,468	5,698	5,026	4,627	4,633	4,128	4,009	3,862	3,544	3,540	95
	Rate ²	215	198	187	166	147	136	137	124	121	117	109	110	
Ottawa ³	No.	1,624	1,401	994	791	1,211	1,124	826	714	698	661	263	529	156
	Rate ²	188	165	120	97	151	142	105	93	92	88	36	74	
Québec	No.	1,714	1,391	3,118	2,410	1,745	1,742	1,515	1,067	873	686	582	518	223
	Rate ²	252	203	458	355	254	254	222	154	127	101	87	78	
Regina	No.	396	369	339	430	252	266	306	169	164	214	201	199	94
	Rate ²	198	183	167	212	126	134	153	85	83	108	103	102	
Saguenay	No.	281	249	429	278	283	260	187	145	196	154	67	100	208
	Rate ²	187	173	296	190	174	160	115	87	117	92	40	61	
Saint John	No.	352	418	408	408	308	222	178	86	69	60	64	65	378
	Rate ²	241	286	278	278	241	174	139	67	53	46	49	50	
Saskatoon	No.	718	673	510	587	556	479	361	277	237	291	281	212	209
	Rate ²	306	288	219	252	242	210	160	126	109	134	130	99	
Sherbrooke	No.	410	382	393	307	255	259	198	154	172	152	95	49	715
	Rate ²	280	263	261	205	167	171	132	104	117	105	66	34	
St. John's	No.	307	306	339	207	215	182	189	245	205	222	211	131	133
	Rate ²	174	174	194	119	123	103	107	137	115	124	119	75	
St. Catharines-Niagara	No.	1,346	1,204	843	955	1,207	924	167	95	112	115	110	86	1399
	Rate ²	316	283	199	227	287	221	40	23	27	28	27	21	
Sudbury	No.	286	304	215	197	163	198	296	204	172	110	204	177	66
	Rate ²	180	190	133	121	101	121	179	123	103	66	123	108	
Thunder Bay	No.	721	580	448	715	576	339	305	263	219	127	187	172	328
	Rate ²	571	456	351	556	451	264	236	201	168	97	144	133	
Toronto	No.	10,542	10,616	10,621	9,013	7,872	6,265	5,186	5,376	6,103	6,133	6,681	11,066	-23
	Rate ²	211	218	225	195	172	139	118	124	143	146	162	274	
Trois-Rivières	No.	530	414	531	419	348	336	352	412	325	178	267	150	240
	Rate ²	364	284	364	286	245	236	247	288	228	125	189	107	
Vancouver	No.	9,914	10,415	10,613	9,176	7,050	7,373	6,815	6,657	7,149	6,122	7,944	7,730	0
	Rate ²	468	500	519	456	353	375	356	363	402	353	470	469	
Victoria	No.	1,473	1,689	1,391	1,313	1,355	1,314	1,221	1,054	1,008	1,047	863	953	43
	Rate ²	459	530	439	414	428	414	385	338	327	344	287	322	
Windsor	No.	605	754	1,374	1,304	1,249	1,140	520	471	383	310	315	341	49
	Rate ²	186	236	438	423	422	391	181	165	136	112	115	125	
Winnipeg	No.	1,348	1,195	1,081	891	938	940	824	798	724	604	657	818	62
	Rate ²	200	178	161	133	138	139	121	118	108	90	98	123	

¹ revised

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) is a large urban area (known as the urban core) together with adjacent urban and rural areas (known as urban and rural fringes) that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. A CMA has an urban core population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census. Once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if the population of its urban core declines below 100,000. A CMA typically comprises more than one police force. The Oshawa CMA is excluded due to the incongruity between the police boundary and the CMA boundary.

2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

3. Includes Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

4. Includes the Quebec portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6



**Drug cases in adult criminal courts by type of decision,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02**

	Total Cases	Decision							
		Found guilty		Acquittal		Stay/Withdrawn		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Drug possession	19,432	11,465	59	73	0	7,634	39	260	1
Drug trafficking	15,600	7,238	46	276	2	7,062	45	1,024	7
Total	35,032	18,703	53	349	1	14,696	42	1,284	4

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry.

Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, or waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a conviction was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

The calculation of conviction rates includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

ACCS data for this figure does not cover Quebec, where most drug offences are reported under residual federal statutes, and Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut which did not report to the ACCS in 2001/02. As a result, this table represents approximately 70% of the drug cases heard in adult criminal courts in Canada.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7



**Convicted drug cases in adult criminal courts by type of and length of sentence,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02**

	Total convicted cases	Prison			Probation			Fine		
		#	mean	median	#	mean	median	#	mean	median
			(days)	(days)		(days)	(days)		(dollars)	(dollars)
Drug possession	11,465	1,373	22	7	3,154	299	360	6,482	332	230
Drug trafficking	7,238	3,065	220	90	2,203	418	365	1,454	1,417	1,000
Drugs Total	18,703	4,438	162	60	5,357	348	360	7,936	531	250

Notes: Mean and median calculations exclude cases with unknown sentence lengths or amounts and cases with indeterminate sentence lengths.

This table does not include data from Quebec, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8



Drug cases in youth court by type of decision in Canada, 2001/02

	Total Cases	Decision									
		Found guilty		Acquittal		Stay/ Withdrawn		Other		Transferred to adult court	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Drug possession	4,058	2,008	49	28	1	2,013	50	7	0	2	0
Drug trafficking	2,000	1,282	64	53	3	648	32	16	1	1	0
Total	6,058	3,290	54	81	1	2,661	44	23	0	3	0

Note: The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of Criminal Code and Other Federal Statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9



Convicted drug cases in youth courts by type of and length of sentence, 2001/02

	Total convicted	Secure Custody			Open Custody			Probation			Fine		
		#	mean (days)	mean (days)	#	mean (days)	mean (days)	#	mean (days)	mean (days)	#	mean (dollars)	mean (dollars)
Drug possession	2,008	43	27	7	57	52	15	1,116	294	360	442	156	144
Drug trafficking	1,282	139	73	45	129	80	60	1,058	357	360	115	311	250
Drugs Total	3,290	182	62	30	186	72	30	2,174	324	360	557	188	150

Note: The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of Criminal Code and Other Federal Statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Severity of spousal violence by partner's use of alcohol at the time of the incident(s), past five years¹

	Total		Partner drinking alcohol at incident		Partner NOT drinking alcohol at incident	
	No. (000's)	%	No. (000's)	%	No. (000's)	%
Total violence female victim²	668	100	293	44	375	56
Threats, something thrown, pushed, slapped	301	45	104	36	197	53
Kicked, bit, hit, or hit with an object	76	11	34	11	42	11
Beaten, choked, gun/knife, sexual assault	291	44	155	53	136	36
Physical injury	276	41	143	49	133	35
No physical injury	391	59	150	51	241	64
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attended hospital to treat injuries	73	11	42	14	31 [†]	8 [†]
Did not attend hospital to treat injuries	203	30	101	34	102	27
No physical injury	391	59	150	51	241	64
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Received medical attention	103	16	53	18	50	13
Did not receive medical attention	172	26	89	30	83	22
No physical injury	391	59	150	51	241	64
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feared for her life	256	38	139	48	116	31
Did not fear for her life	411	62	152	52	259	69
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Had to take time off daily activities	220	33	104	36	115	31
Did not take time off daily activities	443	66	185	63	258	69
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total violence male victim²	526	100	136	26	390	74
Threats, something thrown, pushed, slapped	213	40	35 [†]	26 [†]	178	46
Kicked, bit, hit, or hit with an object	228	43	64	47	164	42
Beaten, choked, gun/knife, sexual assault	84	16	36	26	48	12
Physical injury	71	14	30 [†]	22 [†]	41 [†]	11 [†]
No physical injury	454	86	105	77	349	89
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attended hospital to treat injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Did not attend hospital to treat injuries	60	11	24 [†]	18 [†]	36 [†]	9 [†]
No physical injury	454	86	105	77	349	89
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Received medical attention	0	0	0	0	0	0
Did not receive medical attention	56	11	22 [†]	16 [†]	34 [†]	9 [†]
No physical injury	454	86	105	77	349	89
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feared for his life	38 [†]	7 [†]	23 [†]	17 [†]	16 [†]	4 [†]
Did not fear for his life	486	92	112	82	374	96
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Had to take time off daily activities	53	10	25 [†]	19 [†]	27 [†]	7 [†]
Did not take time off daily activities	471	90	111	81	360	93
Not stated/don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

[†] Coefficient of Variation is high (16.6% to 33.3%)

1. Includes violence by a current or previous spouse.

2. Excludes "don't know" and "not stated" responses.

Source: General Social Survey, 1999, Statistics Canada.

Table 11



Drug related homicide incidents by province and type of drug involved, 1992-2002

		Drugs					Total drug-related	Not drug-related	Unknown	Total
		Cannabis	Cocaine (includes crack)	Heroin	Other drugs	Evidence of drugs-type unknown				
Canada	No. %	137 100	412 100	31 100	41 100	63 100	684 100	4,698 100	732 100	6,114 100
Newfoundland & Labrador	No. %	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 2	1 2	2 0	45 1	3 0	50 1
Prince Edward Island	No. %	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	11 0	2 0	13 0
Nova Scotia	No. %	8 6	9 2	0 0	1 2	1 2	19 3	131 3	23 3	173 3
New Brunswick	No. %	4 3	5 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	9 1	79 2	11 2	99 2
Quebec	No. %	42 31	119 29	6 19	8 20	24 38	199 29	978 21	257 35	1,434 23
Ontario	No. %	31 23	93 23	6 19	10 24	22 35	162 24	1,529 33	175 24	1,866 31
Manitoba	No. %	2 1	8 2	0 0	1 2	0 0	11 2	294 6	35 5	340 6
Saskatchewan	No. %	1 1	3 1	0 0	7 17	3 5	14 2	246 5	20 3	280 5
Alberta	No. %	14 10	40 10	1 3	7 17	6 10	68 10	540 11	71 10	679 11
British Columbia	No. %	33 24	135 33	18 58	6 15	6 10	198 29	783 17	134 18	1,115 18
Territories	No. %	2 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 0	62 1	1 0	65 1

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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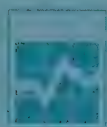
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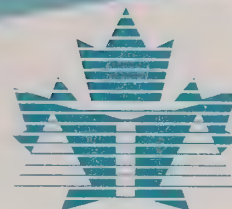
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Youth Court Statistics, 2002/03

by Paul Robinson¹

Highlights

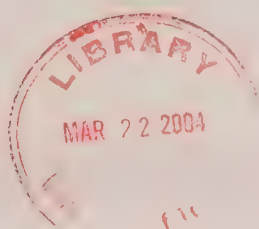
- In 2002/03, youth courts in Canada processed 84,600 cases, involving 205,100 charges.
- Five offences accounted for just over half of the total youth court caseload in 2002/03. These were theft (15%), failure to comply with a disposition, *Young Offenders Act* (12%), common assault (11%), break and enter (9%) and possession of stolen property (7%).
- Half (53%) of the cases before youth courts involved older youth, aged 16 and 17. Youth aged 15 were involved in 21% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 accounted for 24% of cases. The remaining 2% were adults charged under the *Young Offenders Act* or the age was unknown.
- Two-thirds (68%) of youth court cases were concluded within 4 months. Five percent of cases lasted longer than a year.
- Sixty percent of cases heard in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt in 2002/03.
- Probation was the most serious sentence in 57% of all guilty cases while custody (secure and open) was the most serious sentence 27% of the time.
- When multiple sentences in cases are taken into consideration, probation was ordered in 70% of guilty cases in 2002/03.
- In 2002/03, the mean length for probation sentences was one year (375 days). Custodial sentences tended to be much shorter, with a mean sentence length of 68 days for secure custody and 66 days for open custody.
- Total cases processed in youth court have decreased 20% between 1991/92 and 2002/03, primarily due to the steady decline in the number of *Crimes against property* cases. Over the twelve-year period beginning in 1991/92, the number of *Crimes against property* cases has dropped 47%.

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Introduction

Providing effective treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders, and ensuring community safety are primary objectives of the youth justice system. The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), proclaimed in 1984, introduced rights for adolescents previously guaranteed to adults only. It recognized the special needs that youth have as a result of their varying levels of maturity, the necessity for youth to accept responsibility for unlawful action and the right of society to protection from illegal behaviour. Seventeen years later, new legislation was introduced to reform Canada's youth justice system and provide clearer legislative direction on youth crime. Having received Royal Assent in February, 2002, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) replaced the *Young Offenders Act* on April 1, 2003.²

This *Juristat* presents data obtained from the Youth Court Survey (YCS) which is conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth courts. The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence, who appear in court for federal statute offences. Federal statute offences include offences against the *Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), and all *Other federal statute* offences. All youth courts in Canada have reported to the YCS since fiscal year 1991/92.

This *Juristat* will be the last Youth Court Statistics *Juristat* in which all youth court cases are processed exclusively under the YOA (see box 6).

As not all youth crime is reported to police and not all youth in conflict with the law proceed to court, the YCS focuses on the court process and the response to youth crime rather than the prevalence of youth criminal activity.³ Therefore these data should not be used as an indicator of total youth criminal activity.

Cases Heard in Youth Court

Youth courts in Canada processed 84,600 cases involving 205,100 charges in 2002/03. The large majority of cases (81%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.⁴ The types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved *Crimes against property* (38%) and *Crimes against the person* (27%) (Table 1). Less frequent were cases involving offences under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) (12%), offences against the *Administration of Justice* (9%), *Drug-related* offences (7%), *Other Criminal Code* offences (5%), *Criminal Code Traffic* (1%), and *Other federal statute* offences (less than 1%).⁵

Five offences accounted for over half of the total caseload

A small number of offences accounted for a large proportion of the caseload (Figure 1). Together, the five most frequent offences represented over half (54%) of the caseload.

Three of the five most frequent offences were *Crimes against property*: theft accounted for 15% of the total caseload, while break and enter accounted for 9% and possession of stolen property for 7%. The other most frequent types of cases before youth

2. For further information on the YCJA, consult Justice Canada's "YCJA Explained" website at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/yj/repository/>.

3. For further information about charges laid by the police, see Wallace, M., (2003).

4. For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section for more details.

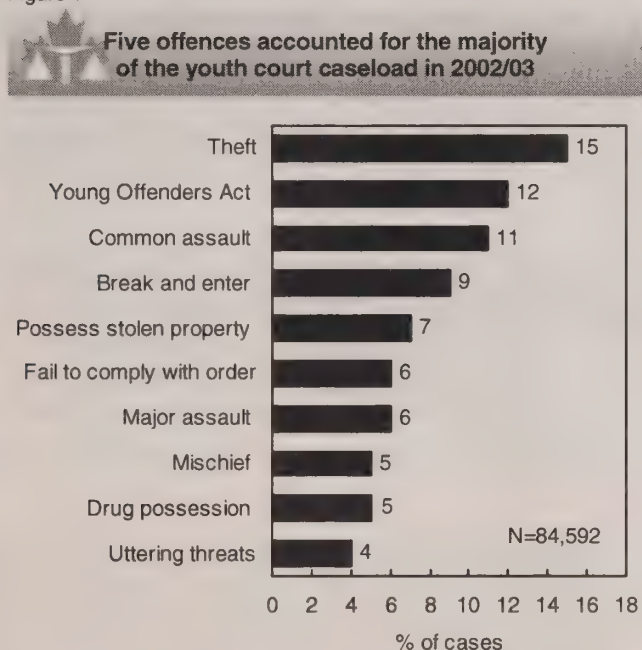
5. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Text box 1

Youth and Youth Crime in Context

- Population - 2002⁶
 - Total Canadian population was 31.4 million with 2.5 million youth aged 12 to 17 years (8% of total)
 - Over the next decade, using an assumption of medium growth, the youth population aged 14 to 17 is expected to increase slightly until 2006 and then decline.
- Persons charged by police in 2002⁷
 - 496,594 adults and youths were charged with federal offences, excluding traffic crimes.
 - 99,000 (20%) of these were youth.
- Cases processed in youth court, 2002/03
 - 84,592 cases were heard in youth courts in 2002/03.
 - This represents a decrease of 20% from 1991/92.
- Convictions in youth court, 2002/03
 - 50,433 cases (60%) resulted in a conviction in 2002/03.
 - The conviction rate has been stable since 1991/92, ranging between 60% (1991/92 and 2002/03) and 64% (1998/99).

Figure 1



Note: YOA offences are primarily the failure to comply with a disposition.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

courts involved failure to comply with a disposition under the YOA (12%) and common assault (11%).⁸

Common assaults most frequent crime against the person

Common assault cases accounted for 40% of all *Crimes against the person* followed by major assault (22%), uttering threats (14%), robbery (13%) and sexual assault (5%). Homicide (which includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide), and attempted murder together accounted for a very small proportion of *Crimes against the person* cases heard in youth courts (less than 1%). There were 44 cases of homicide and 43 cases of attempted murder in 2002/03 in which a young person was the accused.

Demographic Characteristics of Youths Appearing in Court

Half of youth court cases involved 16- and 17-year olds

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds appear more often in youth court than younger accused.⁹ In 2002/03, 16-year-olds accounted for 25% of cases and 17-year-olds made up 28%. Cases involving drug offences implicated a high proportion of older youth, with 16- and 17-year-olds comprising 71% of *Drug-related* offence cases in 2002/03. Accused persons aged 15 appeared in 21% of all cases, while those aged 12, 13, and 14 showed proportionally less involvement, accounting for 3%, 7% and 14% of cases, respectively (Table 2).

Males accounted for eight in ten cases

Males accounted for 77% of youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups. While the proportion of cases against males increased with age, cases against 15-year-old females accounted for the largest proportion of cases against females (24%). Males aged 17 years accounted for 30% of all male cases (Figure 2).

6. Postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2002, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada

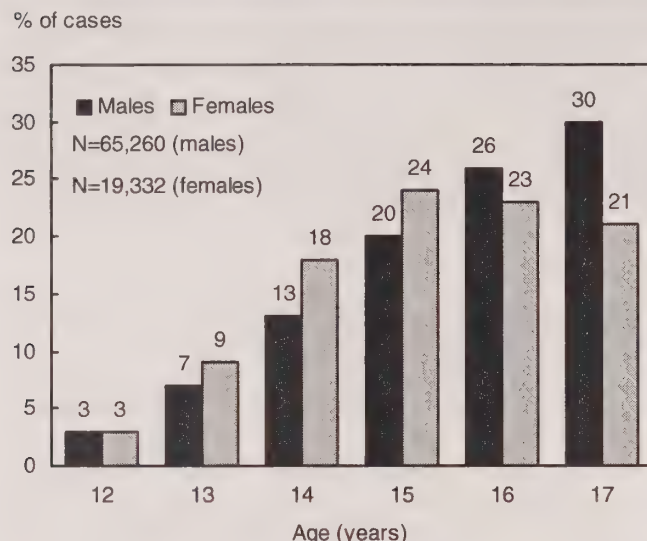
7. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2002, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

8. There are three levels of assault in the Criminal Code: Assault Level I, s.266, Assault Level II, s.267, Assault Level III, s.268. Common assault (Assault Level I) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the Criminal Code. A common assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Common assault includes pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face verbal threats. Major assault includes the higher levels of assault in the Criminal Code: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II), aggravated assault (Assault Level III), and other assaults (e.g. unlawfully causing bodily harm, s.269, assaulting a police officer, s. 270).

9. Age represents the offender's age in years on the day the offence was alleged to have been committed.

Figure 2

Proportion of caseload increased with age for males but declined for females after age 15, 2002/03



Note: Excludes 1,377 cases (1.6%) where the offender was older than 17 or the age was unknown.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Case Processing

Elapsed time to process a case

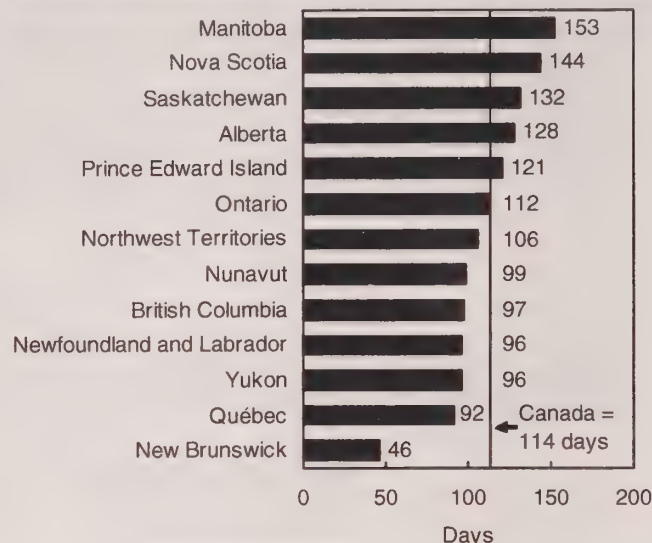
In 2002/03, almost seven out of every ten cases (68%) were processed in four months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), with 5% of cases taking longer than a year. In fact, 16% of cases were completed at the first court appearance. The mean elapsed time from first to last court appearance for all cases was 114 days. Manitoba had the longest mean elapsed time at 153 days, followed by Nova Scotia (144 days), Saskatchewan (132 days), and Alberta (128 days). New Brunswick had the shortest mean elapsed time (46 days) (Figure 3).

In 2002/03, 49% of cases involved only one charge, 23% had two charges, 10% had three charges and 18% had more than three charges. Multiple charge cases took an average of 122 days to complete, compared to 105 days for single charge cases.

Crimes against the person cases tended to take longer to complete, with a mean completion time of 147 days. The shortest case completions were in cases where the most serious offence was against the *Administration of Justice*, with a mean completion time of 80 days.

Figure 3

Mean elapsed time for case processing from first to last court appearance in youth courts, 2002/03



Notes: The mean represents the average value of all the data in the set. Caution should be used in making comparisons between the provinces and territories, as many factors can affect the elapsed time of a case. For instance, the use of pre-charge screening, the number of trial versus non-trial cases, complexity of cases, the seriousness of offences being prosecuted, issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process, lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients, and accused failing to appear in courts may have an impact on the average elapsed time of cases.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 2

Mean and Median

Mean and median are measures of central tendency. While the mean is an average value of all the data in the set, the median represents the midpoint of a sorted data set, where exactly half the dataset are above and half are below the midpoint.¹⁰

The median may be influenced by data sets that are not normally distributed, such as sentencing which clusters around a number of specific time intervals or dollar amounts. For example, custody sentences are typically imposed for periods of weeks or months (e.g., 15 days, 30 days, 45 days, 180 days, etc.). The movement of the median value from one cluster to another may indicate a large increase or decrease in sentencing trends when other measures of central tendency indicate a more subtle change. In addition, the trend line of median values may indicate stability when the change in sentencing patterns are too small to cause the movement of the median value from one sentencing cluster to another. The mean is less affected by the clustering of observations in a data set. However, the mean can be affected by the presence of extreme values.

Because the mean and median are subject to different influences, both the mean and median values have been presented in sentence length tables at the end of this *Juristat* to provide a more complete picture of sentencing in youth courts.

10. For further details, see Statistics Canada, 2003. "Measures of central tendency." *About Statistics: Power from Data!* www.statcan.ca.

Overview of Case Outcomes

Six out of ten cases result in conviction

Cases resulting in a conviction (finding of guilt) accounted for 60% of cases disposed in youth court in 2002/03 (**Table 3**).¹¹ Twenty-seven percent of cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Proceedings were stayed in 12% of cases, and 1% resulted in an acquittal (**Figure 4**).¹²

Text box 3

Transfers to Adult Court

Revisions to the YOA in 1995 allowed for a presumed transfer to adult court for the most serious violent crime cases, unless the accused could prove that the case should be heard by a youth court. This provision applies to murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault. For these offences, the onus is on the accused to make an application to have the case heard in youth court. For other crimes, the Crown or defence counsel may apply for transfer to adult court. The condition stipulated in the Act for these transfers specifies a minimum age requirement of 14 years. Thirty cases were transferred to adult court in 2002/03 (less than 0.1% of total cases). The majority of cases transferred to adult court involved *Crimes against the person* (17 cases). Transfers to adult court are not an option under the YCJA. The most serious offences will be eligible for adult sentencing under this new legislation, but the sanctions will be imposed by a Youth Court judge.

The proportion of guilty cases varies considerably from one jurisdiction to another

The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from 34% in Yukon to 86% in New Brunswick (**Table 3**). Conviction rates in all other jurisdictions ranged between 53% and 70%. There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates.¹³ First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs to a greater extent which may reduce the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Second, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country. Cases that are stayed or withdrawn are often indicative of charges set aside pending completion of alternative measures or diversion programs, or the systematic use of these decisions for administrative purposes. For example, 64% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in the Yukon, compared with 13% in New Brunswick. Third, the use of pre-charge screening by the

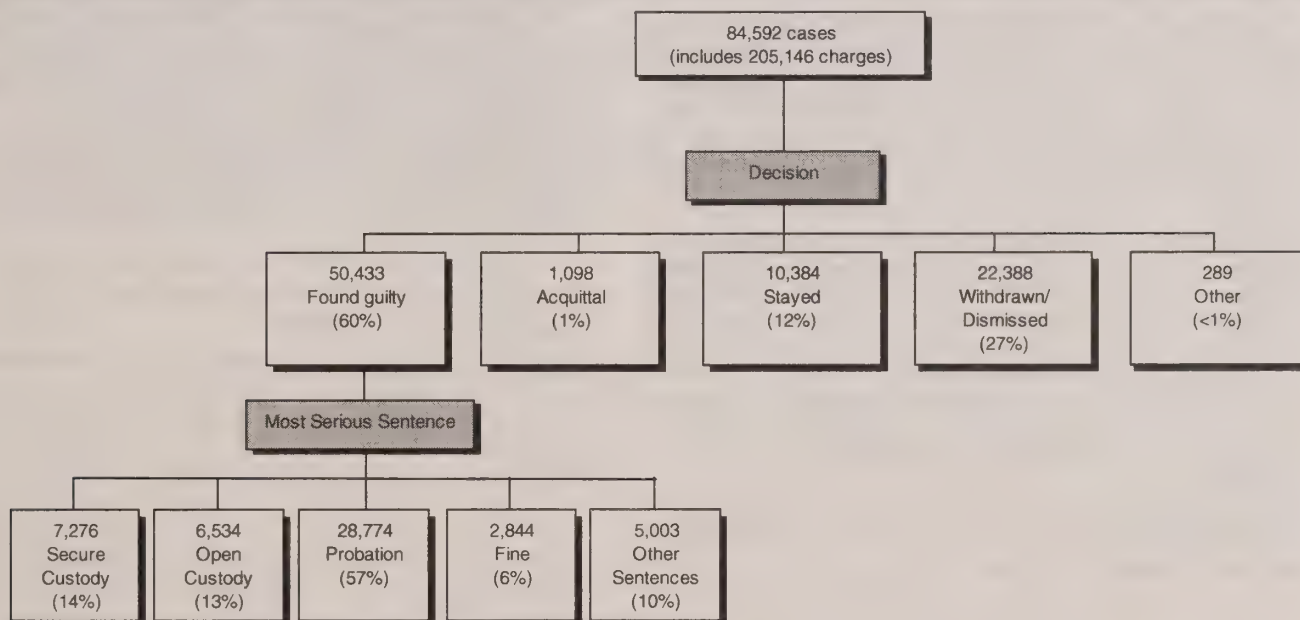
11. Cases found guilty includes cases that have been discharged absolutely or on conditions following the finding of guilt.

12. The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) replaced the Young Offenders Act on April 1, 2003 and the YCS will begin reporting on cases completed and sentenced under the YCJA in 2003/04.

13. The conviction rate is the proportion of total cases with a finding of guilt.

Figure 4

Youth court processing of federal statute cases, 2002/03



Notes:

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Other decisions include transfers to another jurisdiction, cases where the accused was found to be unfit to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, and transfer to adult court.

The most serious sentence is determined by the effect that the sentence has on the young person. Sentences are ordered from most to least serious as follows: secure custody, open custody, probation, fine, compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, community service order, restitution, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, other sentences, conditional discharge and absolute discharge.

Other sentences include compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure or forfeiture, conditional discharge, absolute discharge or some other sentence.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Crown, which occurs in New Brunswick, Québec, and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges.

The proportion of guilty verdicts also varied among offence categories.¹⁴ Cases involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences had the highest proportion of convictions (68%), while *Drug-related* offence cases recorded the lowest proportion (48%).

Text box 4

Decisions in Youth Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Found guilty** includes guilty (convicted) of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, of an attempt of an included offence, or a plea of guilt. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been granted.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the youth court.
- **Stay** involves a stay of proceedings, where a charge or charges are suspended, and the Crown may recommence court proceedings at a later date.
- **Withdrawn or dismissed** refer to cases where all charges were withdrawn by the Crown or dismissed by the court.
- **Other decisions** include cases that were transferred to adult court, transferred to another jurisdiction, the accused was found to be unfit to stand trial, or not criminally responsible due to mental disorder.

Sentencing in Youth Court - YOA

Judges consider a number of factors in sentencing, including the type of offence committed, the circumstances in which the offence was committed and the criminal history of the offender. In the case of a custody sentence, "the protection of society" and "the needs and circumstances of the young person" are also considered by the court before imposing a custodial sentence.¹⁵

In the analysis of sentencing data, this report primarily presents findings in terms of all sentences that convicted youth receive for the most serious offence in the case, that is, accounting for multiple sentences ordered for the same charge (referred to as 'type of sentence' within this document). In order to provide contextual information in certain areas, analysis based on the most serious sentence in a case is also presented. In cases with more than one sentence, the most serious sentence is determined by the effect that the sentence has on a young person.¹⁶

Probation is the most serious sentence in over half of convicted youth cases

In 2002/03, probation was the most serious sentence in over one-half of cases with convictions (57%). Secure custody was the next most serious sentence (14%), followed by open custody (13%), "other" sentences (10%) and fines (6%) (Figure 4). Probation was the most serious sentence in the majority of guilty cases for *Crimes against the person* (67%), *Crimes against property* (64%), and *Other Criminal Code* offences (63%).

Text box 5

Principal Sentencing Options in youth courts

The main types of sanctions that can be imposed by a youth court under section 20 of the YOA include the following:

Custody: A custody sentence can be secure or open. Secure custody sentences are served in a youth facility, which provides secure containment or restraint of young persons. Open custody sentences are served in group homes or community residential facilities, where youths can have some interaction with the community. The maximum length for secure or open custody sentences is generally two years. However, this sentence can be three years if the crime would normally carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment in adult court. In addition, the most serious crimes carry higher sentences. First-degree murder carries a maximum custodial sentence of six years, the longest under the YOA, followed by four years of conditional supervision. Second-degree murder carries a maximum four-year custodial term followed by three years of conditional supervision.¹⁷

Probation: A young offender sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all offenders on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school. The maximum length for a probation order is two years.

Fine: When a fine is imposed, the offender is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. The maximum amount a youth can be fined under the YOA is \$1,000.

Community Service: A community service order requires the youth to perform unpaid work for the community. The maximum length of a community service order is 240 hours with a maximum term of completion of twelve months.

Other sanctions: In addition, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options including compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure or forfeiture, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge.

Sentence review: The length of sentence ordered by the court may be subject to revision under conditions stipulated in the YOA. The court must review all custodial sentences after one year and may reduce the term or type of disposition at that time. Otherwise, the initial sentence ordered is to be served. There is no provision for parole or statutory release in the YOA. Sentences are subject to review upon request by the parent or young offender, although permission must be granted by the court if less than six months have been served. The principal correctional service administrator (Provincial Director) may ask the court for a review hearing if a revision to the sentence would be in the youth's best interest.

Probation very likely for violent offences in combination with custody

Convicted cases can have more than one sentence and when accounting for multiple sentences, probation was ordered in 70% of all convicted cases, in 2002/03, far more than any other type of sentence (Table 4). Community service was the second most frequently ordered sentence (27% of convicted cases).

14. For cases with two or more guilty charges, see "Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge" in the methodology section for more information on how the representative charge for the case is selected.

15. Young Offenders Act section 24, subsection 1.

16. Unless "most serious sentence" is expressly noted, sentencing data are presented in terms of "type of sentence" (i.e., accounting for multiple sentences in a case). See the Methodology section for further information on the selection of the most serious sentence for a case.

17. Conditional supervision orders represent the community based portion of a custody and supervision order for convicted presumptive offences. Under a conditional supervision order the young offender must keep the peace, appear in youth court as required, report to the provincial director immediately upon release from custody, inform the provincial director if questioned or charged by police, report to police as required, report any address changes, comply with the instructions of the provincial director, and is prohibited from possessing any weapons.

Open custody and secure custody were each imposed in 14% of convicted cases. Other sanctions such as compensation, restitution, and conditional or absolute discharges were ordered in nearly one-third (31%) of guilty cases.¹⁸

Probation was ordered most frequently for convicted youth cases involving *Crimes against the person* (86%) followed by *Crimes against property* (76%) and *Other Criminal Code* offences such as weapons, prostitution and disturbing the peace (75%) (Table 4). A lower proportion of convicted cases involving offences against the *Administration of Justice* resulted in a probation sentence (43%).

Although probation was most frequently ordered for *Crimes against the person*, it was often ordered in combination with some form of custody. For example, probation was ordered in all of the convicted youth cases involving attempted murder. However, 64% of these cases also received sentences to secure custody, and 14% to open custody.

Probation was also frequently ordered in convicted youth cases involving other sexual offences (96%), sexual assault (94%), robbery (89%) and major assault (88%). Some of these cases would additionally have been ordered to serve a custodial sentence, as 25% of convicted robbery cases received a sentence to secure custody, and 25% to open custody, followed by major assault (17% secure custody, 15% open), other sexual offences (13% secure, 14% open), and sexual assault (12% secure, 13% open).

Most probation terms are 12 months or less

Under the YOA, youth courts may sentence a young offender to probation for a maximum of two years. In 2002/03, the mean sentence length for probation sentences was one year (375 days) (Table 12).¹⁹ Seventeen percent of cases with a probation sentence were for a period of 6 months or less, 58% ranged from greater than 6 months to 12 months, and 25% were for more than 12 months.

Custodial sentences most prevalent for violent crimes and offences against the Administration of Justice

The use of custody orders is most prevalent for serious violent offences under *Crimes against the person* (Table 4), and *Administration of Justice* offences. For example, in 2002/03, 74% of convicted homicide cases resulted in a sentence of secure custody and 16% in open custody. As previously mentioned, convicted cases involving attempted murder and robbery also frequently received a custodial sentence.

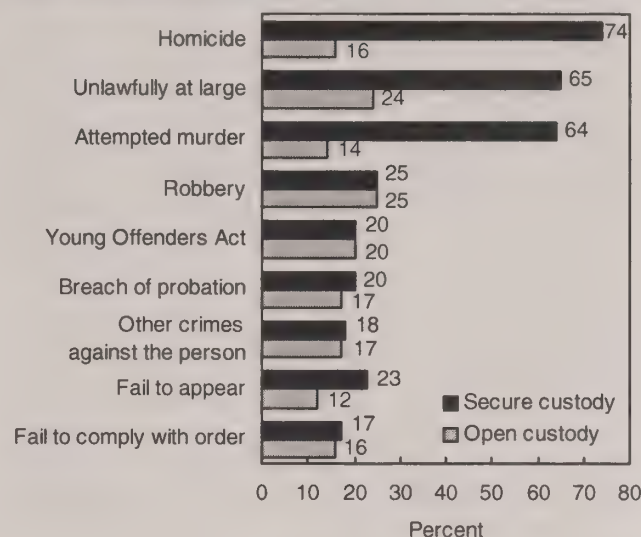
In addition, many of the convicted *Administration of Justice* offences also had a relatively high proportion of cases sentenced to custody, including unlawfully at large, breach of probation, failure to comply with an order, and failure to appear in court (Figure 5).

The use of custody varies widely across Canada

The use of secure custody ranged from 2% of cases with convictions in Nova Scotia to 26% in Newfoundland and Labrador (Table 5). The proportion of cases with convictions resulting in open custody was highest in Nova Scotia (31%) and lowest in Alberta (6%). This variation in the use of custody

Figure 5

Custody most prevalent sentence for serious violent crimes and offences against the Administration of Justice, 2002/03



Note: The mean represents the average value of all the data in the set.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

may reflect the influence of several factors. For example, the severity of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, rates of recidivism can be different, and the mix of available custodial facilities can vary.

Half of custodial sentences are less than one month

In 2002/03, 55% of cases resulting in custody (open and secure) were for terms of less than one month. Twenty-six percent were for terms of 1 to 3 months, 13% were for greater than 3 months and up to a 6 month term, and 6% were for terms longer than 6 months.²⁰ The mean sentence length was 68 days for secure custody and 66 days for open custody.²¹

Fines and other types of sentences used most frequently for traffic offences

Fines and 'other' sentences were imposed most often in case convictions involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences, with 49% of these cases receiving a fine, and 76% receiving some type of sentence other than custody, probation, fine or community service. Within this category, impaired driving cases had the highest proportion of fines imposed (70%) (Table 4). The mean fine amount was \$211.

18. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

19. For more data on sentencing please see supplementary tables 9 to 12 at the end of this report.

20. The YCS cannot distinguish between consecutive and concurrent sentences and does not include sentencing revisions made under review by the court. In multiple sentence cases, for example, the sentence length may be underestimated because of the assumption of concurrent sentences for all charges and may not reflect actual time ordered.

21. For more data on sentencing please see supplementary tables 9 to 12 at the end of this report.

Text box 6

Legislative changes from YCJA

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) replaced the *Young Offenders Act* on April 1, 2003 and the Youth Court Survey (YCS) will begin reporting on cases completed and sentenced under the YCJA in 2003/4. The implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) will bring a number of changes to youth courts which will be reflected in future YCS reports. Some of these changes include the greater use of extrajudicial measures, reforms to address the overuse of custody, new types of youth sentences, and adult sentencing in youth courts.

Extrajudicial measures: One of the objectives of the YCJA is to reduce the use of youth courts for less serious, non-violent offences by promoting extrajudicial measures. Examples of less serious offences include four of the six most frequent offences involving youth: theft under \$5,000, Young Offenders Act offences (e.g., failure to comply with a disposition), possession of stolen property, and failure to comply with order. Extrajudicial measures include informal warnings by police officers, police cautions, referrals to community programs, Crown cautions, and extrajudicial sanctions. While the YOA allowed for the use of alternative measures (which is the equivalent of extrajudicial sanctions under the YCJA), the YCJA provides clearer legislative direction. The YCJA articulates more extrajudicial options, and clarifies the principles and objectives of their use.

Overuse of custody: Another main objective of the YCJA is to reduce the use of custody, especially for non-violent offences. The YCJA clearly defines the purposes and principles of youth sentencing, which reinforces the importance of non-custodial sentencing alternatives. The YCJA generally limits the use of custody to violent offences and to youths who have failed to comply with non-custodial sentences, and to indictable offences where an adult would be liable to more than two years imprisonment or where a youth has had a history of guilty findings under the YCJA or YOA. A custodial sentence can also be imposed for an indictable offence with two years imprisonment or less if, because of aggravating circumstances, a non-custodial sentence would not hold the youth accountable.

New youth sentences: The YCJA provides a number of new non-custodial and custodial sentences to allow the youth court flexibility in identifying the most appropriate and effective sentence for each young offender. New non-custodial sentences include reprimands, intensive support and supervision program orders, and attendance orders.²² The new custodial sentences are deferred custody and supervision and intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision orders.²³

All cases sentenced to custody under the YCJA will have a supervision component.²⁴ For most offences, the supervision period can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the YCJA. However, if the youth is convicted of manslaughter, attempted murder, or aggravated sexual assault, or is given an intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order, the lengths of the custody period and supervision period is up to the discretion of the youth court, as long as the two periods combined is not greater than the maximum sentence length. In these cases, the Crown may make an application in youth court before the custody period expires to extend custody if there are reasonable grounds the youth will commit a serious violent offence before the expiry of the youth sentence. The maximum lengths of custody and supervision orders for first and second degree murder remain unchanged from the YOA.

Adult sentencing: The YCJA does not provide for transfers of youths to adult court. However, youth courts may impose an adult sentence on a young offender in the exceptional case when the youth sentence for a given offence would not hold the youth accountable for his or her criminal conduct. Under the current provisions of the YCJA, an adult sentence can only be considered if the offence committed carries a maximum sentence of more than two years in adult court and the youth was 14 years or older when the offence was committed. Jurisdictions have the option of raising the minimum age to 16 years, so the second criteria may vary. For youth who are charged with murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder, and aggravated sexual assault and for youth who have committed a violent offence and have been found guilty on at least two other occasions of serious violent offences, the presumption is that adult sentencing will apply, and the burden is on the convicted youth to show a youth sentence would be more appropriate. For all other cases, the presumption is that youth sentencing will apply.²⁵

Trends

Total number of cases heard in youth court down significantly from 1991/92

Total cases processed in youth court have decreased 20% between 1991/92 and 2002/03, primarily due to the steady decline in the number of *Crimes against property* cases.²⁶

Youth court cases related to *Criminal Code* offences decreased 29% between 1991/92 and 2002/03. Of the *Criminal Code* offence categories, the largest decrease is in *Crimes against property* (-47%), which has declined every year since 1991/92 (Figure 6). Only *Crimes against the person* has shown an increase (25%) since 1991/92. Most *Criminal Code* offences have decreased, the main exception being uttering threats (169%). The *Criminal Code* offence groups with the largest decreases since 1991/92 relate to *Crimes against property*: break and enter (-53%), fraud (-52%), theft (-48%), and possession of stolen property (-47%).

Other Federal Statute cases were up 65% during the twelve year period, constituting 19% of the total number of cases in 2002/03, but only 9% of total cases in 1991/92. A number of offence groups under the *Other Federal Statute* category increased over the twelve-year period, including drug possession, which has increased every year since 1991/92 and more than tripled since 1991/92, drug trafficking cases, which have more than doubled, and failure to comply with a disposition, YOA (up 35%).

Rate of youth charged by police decreased slightly

Youth court caseloads reflect police charging practices. That is, the composition and distribution of offences appearing in youth court are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge alternative measures programs and pre-court diversion programs, some young persons are diverted away from further exposure in the criminal justice system. In 2002, the rate of youth per 100,000 aged 12 to 17

22. Reprimands are formal rebukes given by the Youth Court judge, and are usually in the form of lecture. Intensive support and supervision program orders allow for more monitoring of a youth than a probation order, without putting the youth into custody. Attendance orders require the youth to attend a program specified to address the young person's needs. A pilot attendance centre program has already been set up in Ontario.

23. Deferred custody and supervision sentences allow the youth to serve his or her sentence in the community under a number of conditions. A breach of conditions may lead to the youth spending the rest of the sentence in custody, however the conditions may also be reviewed and modified by the court. Intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision orders are intended to provide treatment to youths suffering from mental or psychological disorders.

24. Under the YOA, custody and supervision was only used in sentences for first and second degree murder.

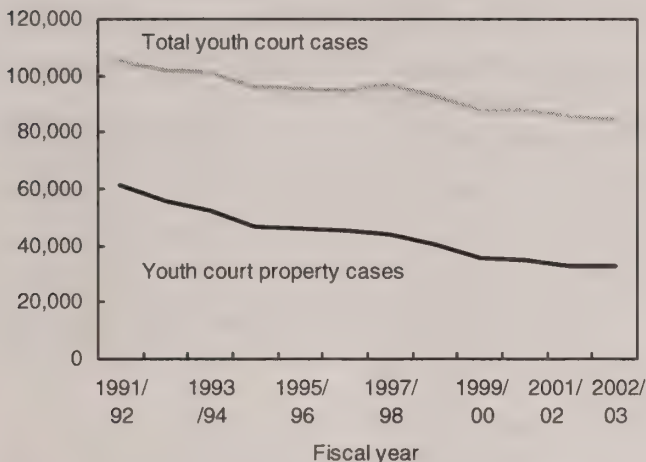
25. Despite these provisions for 'presumption', the Quebec Court of Appeal has held that the presumption provisions of the YCJA are invalid. Therefore, rather than relying on presumption, many jurisdictions are giving notice when seeking an adult sentence for a youth accused of committing and offence. Amendments to this effect are pending.

26. This section highlights youth court trends over the twelve year period from 1991/92, the first year for which national data are available for the YCS, to the current year, 2002/03.

Figure 6

The number of Crimes against property cases continued to decrease in 2002/03

Number of cases



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

charged with criminal offences dropped 3% from 2001, the first decrease in three years,²⁷ while the youth court case rate in 2002/03 declined 2% from 2001/02.

Comparisons among the provinces and territories

Differences across the country in the reporting of criminal incidents to police, in procedures and eligibility requirements for police diversion and alternative measures programs, and differences in provincial policy directing Crown discretion will influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts. For example, Alternative Measures programs, intended to be alternatives to formal judicial proceedings for youth, differ among the jurisdictions with regard to eligibility criteria (e.g., they may be restricted to first-time offenders), timing (i.e., pre-charge or post-charge) and coverage (e.g., they commonly involve less serious crimes only). Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Québec and British Columbia. Processes such as these serve to keep less serious cases out of the court system and reduce court workload. These factors should be considered when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons.

The national rate of youth court cases shows a gradual decline from 464 cases per 10,000 youth in 1991/92 to 338 in 2002/03. Generally steady declines over the past five years were found in Manitoba (-37%), Yukon (-33%), Nova Scotia (-28%), British Columbia (-24%) and Alberta (-22%). In most other jurisdictions, however, the rate tended to fluctuate annually with no discernible pattern. With the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, the youth court case rates were lower in 2002/03 for all jurisdictions than in 1998/99. Québec had the lowest rate of youth appearing in court (156 per 10,000 youth).

Proportion of cases found guilty stable since 1991/92

Six in ten youth court cases were found guilty in 2002/03, the same as the proportion found guilty in 1991/92 (60%), and down 4 percentage points from a high of 64% in 1998/99.

In each of the last five years, the proportion convicted has decreased. Much of the decrease comes from *Crimes against property*, where convictions have fallen each year from 64% in 1998/99 to 58% in 2002/03. For example, the conviction rates for theft, break and enter and possession of stolen property have declined by 12%, 5% and 6% respectively. By comparison, the proportion convicted of *Crimes against the person* (62% in 2002/03) has fallen only 1 percentage point during the last five years.

Length of secure and open custody sentences down

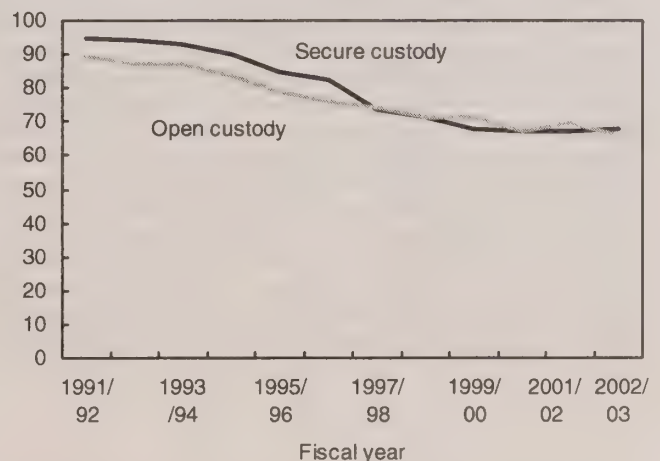
The mean sentence length of secure and open custody has been getting shorter (Figure 7). In 1991/92, the mean length of secure custody was 95 days. For the next eight years, the mean sentence length for secure custody declined; however, in the last four years, from 1999/00 to 2002/03, the mean sentence length has remained stable, fluctuating between 67 and 68 days.

The mean length of sentence to open custody has also been getting shorter. In 1991/92, the average open custody sentence was 90 days, compared to 71 days in 1998/99 and 66 days in 2002/03.

Figure 7

Average length of custodial sentences in youth courts getting shorter

of days



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

27. For further information on the rate of youth charged by police, see Wallace, M., (2003), and Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0014.

In contrast to custody, youth probation sentences are getting longer, moving from a mean of 316 days in 1991/92 to 363 days in 1998/99 and 375 days in 2002/03. The mean fine amount is also getting higher. Despite some minor fluctuations, the average fine imposed on youth increased from \$151 in 1991/92 to \$211 in 2002/03²⁸.

Methodology

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other Federal Statute* offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. Every effort is made by survey respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) to ensure complete survey coverage.

Primary unit of analysis

The primary unit of analysis is the case, defined as one or more charges against a young person disposed of on the same day. The YCS adopted the Adult Criminal Court Survey definition of a case during the 2001/02 reference year, in an effort to make the two surveys more consistent. Previously, case counts for the YCS were based on those charges against a young person that had the same day of first appearance.

This change has produced case counts that are slightly lower than those previously released in *Juristats* prior to the 2001/02 reference period and other YCS reports. However, trend data presented in this *Juristat* are based on the new definition to ensure data comparability.

Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge

Since a case is identified by a single charge, in cases with more than one charge it is necessary to determine the charge that will represent the case. In multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (e.g. not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings; charge withdrawn; or transfer to other jurisdiction; and not guilty or charged dismissed. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges have equal results according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If the representative charge for the case still cannot be determined, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

The most serious sentence is determined by the effect that the sentence has on the young person. Sentences are ordered from most to least significant as follows: secure custody, open custody, probation, fine, compensation, pay purchaser (a dollar amount paid back to the innocent purchaser of stolen goods), compensation in kind, community service order, restitution, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, other sentences, conditional discharge and absolute discharge.

Factors influencing comparability of youth court statistics among jurisdictions

The reader is advised that the use of the decisions 'stay' and 'withdrawn' for administrative purposes (e.g., to reduce charges or to correct details on an information) varies by jurisdiction. To terminate and recommence a case for administrative purposes has been found to inflate the total number of cases reported to the YCS. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon are most affected by this practice. Consequently the reader is encouraged, where possible, to analyze cases with guilty findings to increase comparability among the jurisdictions.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the YOA has been implemented. Pre-court screening procedures may affect the number of youth appearing in court. The Crown Attorney, for example, may decide not to proceed with a charge, or the initial charge may be changed. A youth may also be diverted from the court process into an Alternative Measures program (either before or after police lay charges), a police or Crown diversion program.

Alternative Measures (AM) programs are generally reserved for first-time offenders and are often limited to specific types of less serious offences, although young offenders committing more serious offences can be considered for acceptance in the program in most jurisdictions. Except for New Brunswick, Ontario and Yukon, all AM programs are combined pre-and post-charge programs where the preferences, and the general practices, are to refer youth at the pre-charge stage (i.e., before charges are laid). In New Brunswick, the AM program operates at the pre-charge stage only. In Ontario, youth are only referred to AM programs at the post-charge stage (i.e., after charges are laid). In Yukon, the general practice is to refer youth to the AM program at the post-charge stage, although, on occasion, they may be referred at the pre-charge stage. Alternative measures cases are excluded from YCS data either in the jurisdiction or at CCJS, if they are identified. Nevertheless, differences in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

28. Fine amounts are given in current dollars.

Table 1

Youth Court Charges and Cases, Canada, 2002/03

Offence group	Charges		Cases	
	#	%	#	%
Total Offences	205,146	100.0	84,592	100.0
Crimes Against the Person	37,633	18.3	22,462	26.6
Homicide	48	0.0	44	0.1
Attempted murder	76	0.0	43	0.1
Robbery	4,775	2.3	2,932	3.5
Sexual assault	2,188	1.1	1,115	1.3
Other sexual offences	1,218	0.6	566	0.7
Major assault	7,693	3.8	4,935	5.8
Common assault	13,934	6.8	8,968	10.6
Uttering threats	6,240	3.0	3,244	3.8
Criminal harassment	442	0.2	208	0.2
Other crimes against persons	1,019	0.5	407	0.5
Crimes Against Property	75,060	36.6	32,465	38.4
Theft	27,539	13.4	12,913	15.3
Break and enter	14,023	6.8	7,415	8.8
Fraud	3,885	1.9	1,411	1.7
Mischief	14,221	6.9	4,247	5.0
Possess stolen property	14,571	7.1	6,039	7.1
Other property crimes	821	0.4	440	0.5
Administration of Justice	28,057	13.7	7,790	9.2
Fail to appear	3,010	1.5	1,044	1.2
Breach of probation	877	0.4	249	0.3
Unlawfully at large	1,729	0.8	1,153	1.4
Fail to comply with order	21,684	10.6	4,996	5.9
Other admin. justice	757	0.4	348	0.4
Other Criminal Code	13,680	6.7	4,267	5.0
Weapons	4,944	2.4	1,539	1.8
Prostitution	78	0.0	25	0.0
Disturbing the peace	916	0.4	384	0.5
Residual Criminal Code	7,742	3.8	2,319	2.7
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	154,430	75.3	66,984	79.2
Criminal Code Traffic	3,464	1.7	1,225	1.4
Impaired driving	1,653	0.8	658	0.8
Other Criminal Code traffic	1,811	0.9	567	0.7
Total Criminal Code	157,894	77.0	68,209	80.6
Other Federal Statute Total	47,252	23.0	16,383	19.4
Drug possession	6,905	3.4	4,137	4.9
Drug trafficking	2,992	1.5	1,770	2.1
Young Offenders Act	37,143	18.1	10,325	12.2
Residual federal statutes	212	0.1	151	0.2

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Cases Heard in Youth Court by Offence Category and Age of Accused, Canada, 2002/03

Offence Category	Total cases	Age of accused													
		12		13		14		15		16		17		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Offences	84,592	2,459	2.9	6,144	7.3	11,757	13.9	17,672	20.9	21,400	25.3	23,783	28.1	1,377	1.6
Crimes Against the Person	22,462	1,047	4.7	2,232	9.9	3,473	15.5	4,873	21.7	5,174	23.0	5,374	23.9	289	1.3
Crimes Against Property	32,465	1,101	3.4	2,638	8.1	5,056	15.6	6,906	21.3	8,138	25.1	8,288	25.5	338	1.0
Administration of Justice	7,790	125	1.6	453	5.8	1,024	13.1	1,618	20.8	2,020	25.9	2,336	30.0	214	2.7
Other Criminal Code Offences	4,267	85	2.0	231	5.4	458	10.7	804	18.8	1,221	28.6	1,417	33.2	51	1.2
Criminal Code Traffic	1,225	7	0.6	7	0.6	41	3.3	93	7.6	309	25.2	763	62.3	5	0.4
Drug Offences	5,907	28	0.5	144	2.4	462	7.8	1,045	17.7	1,750	29.6	2,423	41.0	55	0.9
Young Offenders Act	10,325	66	0.6	434	4.2	1,230	11.9	2,310	22.4	2,742	26.6	3,119	30.2	424	4.1
Other Federal Statutes	151	0	0.0	5	3.3	13	8.6	23	15.2	46	30.5	63	41.7	1	0.7

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age of accused is at the time of offence.

Other age group includes cases where the offender was older than 17 at the time of the offence (i.e., YOA section 26 and 50) or the age was unknown.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Cases before Youth Courts by Type of Decision, Provinces and Territories, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Total Cases	Decision									
		Found guilty		Acquittal		Stayed		Withdrawn/ Dismissed		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	84,592	50,433	59.6	1,098	1.3	10,384	12.3	22,388	26.5	289	0.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,699	1,078	63.4	0	0.0	118	6.9	496	29.2	7	0.4
Prince Edward Island	300	194	64.7	2	0.7	77	25.7	27	9.0	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	2,213	1,290	58.3	53	2.4	0	0.0	862	39.0	8	0.4
New Brunswick	1,708	1,466	85.8	15	0.9	0	0.0	219	12.8	8	0.5
Quebec	8,534	5,986	70.1	580	6.8	845	9.9	1,066	12.5	57	0.7
Ontario	38,584	21,689	56.2	143	0.4	3,830	9.9	12,850	33.3	72	0.2
Manitoba	4,050	2,468	60.9	42	1.0	1,523	37.6	9	0.2	8	0.2
Saskatchewan	7,749	4,101	52.9	42	0.5	1,118	14.4	2,473	31.9	15	0.2
Alberta	11,362	6,965	61.3	101	0.9	144	1.3	4,077	35.9	75	0.7
British Columbia	7,494	4,679	62.4	119	1.6	2,625	35.0	34	0.5	37	0.5
Yukon	210	72	34.3	1	0.5	60	28.6	75	35.7	2	1.0
Northwest Territories	443	283	63.9	0	0.0	14	3.2	146	33.0	0	0.0
Nunavut	246	162	65.9	0	0.0	30	12.2	54	22.0	0	0.0

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Other decisions include transferred to adult court, transferred to another province/territory, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

1. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Youth Court Cases with Convictions by Type of Sentence, Canada, 2002/03

Most serious offence	Total convicted cases	Type of sentence for most serious offence											
		Secure custody		Open custody		Probation		Fine		Community Service		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Offences	50,433	7,278	14.4	7,049	14.0	35,356	70.1	3,449	6.8	13,674	27.1	15,699	31.1
Crimes Against the Person	13,946	1,996	14.3	1,966	14.1	11,933	85.6	257	1.8	3,425	24.6	4,906	35.2
Homicide	19	14	73.7	3	15.8	10	52.6	0	0.0	1	5.3	12	63.2
Attempted murder	14	9	64.3	2	14.3	14	100.0	0	0.0	2	14.3	12	85.7
Robbery	1,833	451	24.6	458	25.0	1,637	89.3	15	0.8	486	26.5	898	49.0
Sexual assault	658	82	12.5	88	13.4	617	93.8	3	0.5	107	16.3	229	34.8
Other sexual offences	258	33	12.8	35	13.6	247	95.7	0	0.0	31	12.0	66	25.6
Major assault	3,113	537	17.3	482	15.5	2,741	88.1	56	1.8	809	26.0	1,257	40.4
Common assault	5,916	579	9.8	586	9.9	4,898	82.8	146	2.5	1,574	26.6	1,822	30.8
Uttering threats	1,829	246	13.4	271	14.8	1,507	82.4	29	1.6	333	18.2	490	26.8
Criminal harassment	121	12	9.9	10	8.3	105	86.8	3	2.5	36	29.8	43	35.5
Other crimes against persons	185	33	17.8	31	16.8	157	84.9	5	2.7	46	24.9	77	41.6
Crimes Against Property	18,863	2,114	11.2	2,485	13.2	14,417	76.4	917	4.9	6,318	33.5	6,084	32.3
Theft	7,352	661	9.0	863	11.7	5,254	71.5	514	7.0	2,483	33.8	2,413	32.8
Break and enter	5,210	788	15.1	942	18.1	4,443	85.3	67	1.3	1,815	34.8	1,429	27.4
Fraud	866	84	9.7	94	10.9	659	76.1	47	5.4	271	31.3	351	40.5
Mischief	2,231	114	5.1	111	5.0	1,632	73.2	137	6.1	818	36.7	1,010	45.3
Possess stolen property	2,948	440	14.9	445	15.1	2,197	74.5	149	5.1	825	28.0	805	27.3
Other property crimes	256	27	10.5	30	11.7	232	90.6	3	1.2	106	41.4	76	29.7
Administration of Justice	4,444	1,269	28.6	758	17.1	1,926	43.3	366	8.2	617	13.9	756	17.0
Fail to appear	488	110	22.5	58	11.9	223	45.7	63	12.9	73	15.0	82	16.8
Breach of probation	88	18	20.5	15	17.0	48	54.5	8	9.1	25	28.4	10	11.4
Unlawfully at large	1,023	663	64.8	242	23.7	182	17.8	6	0.6	29	2.8	43	4.2
Fail to comply with order	2,623	457	17.4	429	16.4	1,310	49.9	266	10.1	421	16.1	555	21.2
Other admin. justice	222	21	9.5	14	6.3	163	73.4	23	10.4	69	31.1	66	29.7
Other Criminal Code	2,295	255	11.1	230	10.0	1,714	74.7	144	6.3	586	25.5	876	38.2
Weapons	848	83	9.8	72	8.5	670	79.0	35	4.1	191	22.5	454	53.5
Prostitution	16	6	37.5	1	6.3	11	68.8	1	6.3	1	6.3	4	25.0
Disturbing the peace	215	6	2.8	3	1.4	141	65.6	35	16.3	67	31.2	80	37.2
Residual Criminal Code	1,216	160	13.2	154	12.7	892	73.4	73	6.0	327	26.9	338	27.8
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	39,548	5,634	14.2	5,439	13.8	29,990	75.8	1,684	4.3	10,946	27.7	12,622	31.9
Criminal Code Traffic	833	42	5.0	49	5.9	386	46.3	410	49.2	185	22.2	634	76.1
Impaired driving	494	1	0.2	5	1.0	138	27.9	344	69.6	103	20.9	436	88.3
Other Criminal Code traffic	339	41	12.1	44	13.0	248	73.2	66	19.5	82	24.2	198	58.4
Total Criminal Code	40,381	5,676	14.1	5,488	13.6	30,376	75.2	2,094	5.2	11,131	27.6	13,256	32.8
Other Federal Statute Total	10,052	1,602	15.9	1,561	15.5	4,980	49.5	1,355	13.5	2,543	25.3	2,443	24.3
Drug possession	1,764	48	2.7	41	2.3	1,037	58.8	361	20.5	502	28.5	816	46.3
Drug trafficking	1,081	111	10.3	93	8.6	879	81.3	108	10.0	457	42.3	571	52.8
Young Offenders Act	7,110	1,443	20.3	1,427	20.1	3,038	42.7	829	11.7	1,567	22.0	1,036	14.6
Other federal statutes	97	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	26.8	57	58.8	17	17.5	20	20.6

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5



Sentences in Youth Courts, Provinces and Territories, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Total convicted cases	Type of sentence											
		Secure custody #	%	Open custody #	%	Probation #	%	Fine #	%	Community Service #	%	Other #	%
Canada	50,433	7,278	14.4	7,049	14.0	35,356	70.1	3,449	6.8	13,674	27.1	15,699	31.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,078	282	26.2	153	14.2	755	70.0	36	3.3	202	18.7	211	19.6
Prince Edward Island	194	39	20.1	42	21.6	141	72.7	21	10.8	0	0.0	69	35.6
Nova Scotia	1,290	24	1.9	393	30.5	930	72.1	91	7.1	354	27.4	224	17.4
New Brunswick	1,466	235	16.0	202	13.8	984	67.1	94	6.4	0	0.0	286	19.5
Quebec	5,986	819	13.7	515	8.6	4,405	73.6	257	4.3	2,785	46.5	2,480	41.4
Ontario	21,689	3,031	14.0	3,398	15.7	17,272	79.6	857	4.0	5,376	24.8	6,156	28.4
Manitoba	2,468	277	11.2	422	17.1	1,537	62.3	217	8.8	546	22.1	1,518	61.5
Saskatchewan	4,101	873	21.3	458	11.2	2,365	57.7	215	5.2	1,268	30.9	680	16.6
Alberta	6,965	1,038	14.9	405	5.8	3,152	45.3	1,404	20.2	1,582	22.7	2,578	37.0
British Columbia	4,679	563	12.0	953	20.4	3,479	74.4	218	4.7	1,389	29.7	1,303	27.8
Yukon	72	18	25.0	18	25.0	29	40.3	1	1.4	10	13.9	23	31.9
Northwest Territories	283	53	18.7	63	22.3	172	60.8	36	12.7	96	33.9	61	21.6
Nunavut	162	26	16.0	27	16.7	135	83.3	2	1.2	66	40.7	110	67.9

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counselling programs and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6



Cases heard in Youth Courts, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Offence category		1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	% change from 1998/99 to 2002/03	% change from 1991/92 to 2002/03
Total cases	number	92,867	87,600	87,617	85,640	84,592		
	% change in the number of cases*	-4.4	-5.7	0.0	-2.3	-1.2	-8.9	-19.8
Crimes against the person	number	23,204	22,432	22,674	22,510	22,462		
	% change in the number of cases*	1.2	-3.3	1.1	-0.7	-0.2	-3.2	25.4
Crimes against property	number	40,148	35,518	34,694	33,086	32,465		
	% change in the number of cases*	-8.2	-11.5	-2.3	-4.6	-1.9	-19.1	-46.9
Administration of Justice	number	8,154	7,551	7,917	7,698	7,790		
	% change in the number of cases*	-4.0	-7.4	4.8	-2.8	1.2	-4.5	-3.7
Other Criminal Code offences	number	4,791	4,566	4,506	4,525	4,267		
	% change in the number of cases*	-6.4	-4.7	-1.3	0.4	-5.7	-10.9	-35.3
Criminal Code Traffic	number	1,240	1,238	1,166	1,211	1,225		
	% change in the number of cases*	-12.1	-0.2	-5.8	3.9	1.2	-1.2	-35.8
Drug-related offences	number	4,300	4,956	5,767	6,058	5,907		
	% change in the number of cases*	5.6	15.3	16.4	5.0	-2.5	37.4	207.7
YOA offences	number	10,916	11,217	10,766	10,414	10,325		
	% change in the number of cases*	-2.0	2.8	-4.0	-3.3	-0.9	-5.4	34.6
Residual federal statute offences	number	114	122	127	138	151		
	% change in the number of cases*	-52.9	7.0	4.1	8.7	9.4	32.5	-51.9

* refers to the previous year.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7



Cases before Youth Courts, Rate per 10,000 Youths, Canada and Provinces, 1998/99 to 2002/03

	Rate of cases per 10,000 youths					% change 2001/02 to 2002/03	% change 1998/99 to 2002/03	% change 1991/92 to 2002/03
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03			
Canada	379	357	357	347	338	-2	-11	-27
Newfoundland and Labrador	370	324	323	379	386	2	4	-6
Prince Edward Island	246	238	145	244	241	-1	-2	-44
Nova Scotia	404	366	359	339	290	-14	-28	-32
New Brunswick	300	338	309	306	287	-6	-4	-10
Quebec	188	188	175	184	156	-15	-17	-8
Ontario	419	386	419	399	400	0	-4	-23
Manitoba	632	521	493	466	401	-14	-37	-42
Saskatchewan	682	746	761	789	818	4	20	-4
Alberta	535	474	452	433	419	-3	-22	-49
British Columbia	306	303	252	220	233	6	-24	-51
Yukon	1,114	970	965	769	748	-3	-33	-38
Northwest Territories	889	903	692	883	1,061	20	...	...
Nunavut	...	386	659	644	675	5	...	...

... not applicable

Notes: Due to the creation of Nunavut from the Northwest Territories, data collected prior to 1999/00 cannot be compared to data collected after that date for these jurisdictions. Reliable data are not available for the first year of reporting in Nunavut.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8



Decisions in Youth Courts, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

		Total cases	Type of decision				
			Guilty	Acquitted	Stay	Withdrawn / dismissed	Other
1998/99	No. of cases	92,867	59,385	1,334	10,233	21,505	410
	% of total cases	100.0	63.9	1.4	11.0	23.2	0.4
1999/00	No. of cases	87,600	55,534	1,163	9,921	20,482	500
	% of total cases	100.0	63.4	1.3	11.3	23.4	0.6
2000/01	No. of cases	87,617	53,283	1,186	10,282	22,511	355
	% of total cases	100.0	60.8	1.4	11.7	25.7	0.4
2001/02	No. of cases	85,640	51,952	1,132	10,114	22,024	418
	% of total cases	100.0	60.7	1.3	11.8	25.7	0.5
2002/03	No. of cases	84,592	50,433	1,098	10,384	22,388	289
	% of total cases	100.0	59.6	1.3	12.3	26.5	0.3

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Other decisions include transfers to adult court, transfers to another jurisdiction, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Youth Case Convictions, by Type of Sentence for Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

		Type of sentence for most serious offence												
Year	Offence category	Total convicted cases	Secure custody		Open custody		Probation		Fine		Community Service		Other	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1998/99	Total offences	59,385	8,855	14.9	9,637	16.2	38,285	64.5	4,700	7.9	17,926	30.2	15,796	26.6
	Crimes Against the Person	14,675	2,221	15.1	2,545	17.3	11,457	78.1	428	2.9	4,147	28.3	3,784	25.8
	Crimes Against Property	25,719	3,066	11.9	3,790	14.7	18,094	70.4	1,485	5.8	9,249	36.0	7,454	29.0
	Administration of Justice	4,965	1,611	32.4	1,053	21.2	1,750	35.2	422	8.5	728	14.7	1,152	23.2
	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,678	292	10.9	304	11.4	1,845	68.9	224	8.4	772	28.8	761	28.4
	<i>Criminal Code</i> Traffic	897	37	4.1	49	5.5	338	37.7	513	57.2	170	19.0	677	75.5
	Drug Offences	2,686	189	7.0	217	8.1	1,697	63.2	533	19.8	1,004	37.4	712	26.5
	YOA	7,680	1,439	18.7	1,679	21.9	3,086	40.2	1,031	13.4	1,842	24.0	1,252	16.3
Other Federal Statutes	85	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	21.2	64	75.3	14	16.5	4	4.7	
1999/00	Total offences	55,534	8,102	14.6	8,509	15.3	35,554	64.0	4,484	8.1	15,922	28.7	21,228	38.2
	Crimes Against the Person	13,939	1,971	14.1	2,211	15.9	11,002	78.9	393	2.8	3,771	27.1	6,248	44.8
	Crimes Against Property	22,695	2,769	12.2	3,102	13.7	15,792	69.6	1,313	5.8	7,694	33.9	8,988	39.6
	Administration of Justice	4,476	1,359	30.4	956	21.4	1,600	35.7	407	9.1	652	14.6	1,179	26.3
	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,567	255	9.9	276	10.8	1,702	66.3	247	9.6	697	27.2	1,200	46.7
	<i>Criminal Code</i> Traffic	914	56	6.1	47	5.1	331	36.2	517	56.6	205	22.4	702	76.8
	Drug Offences	2,994	184	6.1	235	7.8	1,959	65.4	577	19.3	1,079	36.0	1,206	40.3
	YOA	7,867	1,507	19.2	1,681	21.4	3,147	40.0	974	12.4	1,806	23.0	1,694	21.5
Other Federal Statutes	82	1	1.2	1	1.2	21	25.6	56	68.3	18	22.0	11	13.4	
2000/01	Total offences	53,283	7,978	15.0	8,269	15.5	34,435	64.6	3,984	7.5	14,398	27.0	13,608	25.5
	Crimes Against the Person	13,729	2,010	14.6	2,218	16.2	10,735	78.2	310	2.3	3,339	24.3	3,777	27.5
	Crimes Against Property	20,908	2,505	12.0	2,907	13.9	14,793	70.8	1,139	5.4	6,754	32.3	5,717	27.3
	Administration of Justice	4,591	1,440	31.4	908	19.8	1,772	38.6	376	8.2	614	13.4	635	13.8
	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,458	312	12.7	280	11.4	1,646	67.0	189	7.7	584	23.8	820	33.4
	<i>Criminal Code</i> Traffic	796	40	5.0	49	6.2	301	37.8	419	52.6	183	23.0	600	75.4
	Drug Offences	3,252	205	6.3	222	6.8	2,197	67.6	573	17.6	1,142	35.1	1,154	35.5
	YOA	7,461	1,466	19.6	1,685	22.6	2,971	39.8	924	12.4	1,760	23.6	889	11.9
Other Federal Statutes	88	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	22.7	54	61.4	22	25.0	16	18.2	
2001/02	Total offences	51,952	7,720	14.9	7,339	14.1	34,083	65.6	3,719	7.2	14,223	27.4	15,973	30.7
	Crimes Against the Person	13,798	1,969	14.3	2,005	14.5	10,935	79.3	289	2.1	3,426	24.8	4,578	33.2
	Crimes Against Property	19,779	2,414	12.2	2,541	12.8	14,197	71.8	987	5.0	6,507	32.9	6,376	32.2
	Administration of Justice	4,489	1,335	29.7	857	19.1	1,709	38.1	385	8.6	659	14.7	867	19.3
	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,534	297	11.7	240	9.5	1,758	69.4	188	7.4	685	27.0	896	35.4
	<i>Criminal Code</i> Traffic	859	59	6.9	48	5.6	370	43.1	417	48.5	185	21.5	628	73.1
	Drug Offences	3,290	182	5.5	186	5.7	2,174	66.1	557	16.9	1,143	34.7	1,465	44.5
	YOA	7,112	1,463	20.6	1,462	20.6	2,919	41.0	842	11.8	1,594	22.4	1,152	16.2
Other Federal Statutes	91	1	1.1	0	0.0	21	23.1	54	59.3	24	26.4	11	12.1	
2002/03	Total offences	50,433	7,278	14.4	7,049	14.0	35,356	70.1	3,449	6.8	13,674	27.1	15,699	31.1
	Crimes Against the Person	13,946	1,996	14.3	1,966	14.1	11,933	85.6	257	1.8	3,425	24.6	4,906	35.2
	Crimes Against Property	18,863	2,114	11.2	2,485	13.2	14,417	76.4	917	4.9	6,318	33.5	6,084	32.3
	Administration of Justice	4,444	1,269	28.6	758	17.1	1,926	43.3	366	8.2	617	13.9	756	17.0
	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,295	255	11.1	230	10.0	1,714	74.7	144	6.3	586	25.5	876	38.2
	<i>Criminal Code</i> Traffic	833	42	5.0	49	5.9	386	46.3	410	49.2	185	22.2	634	76.1
	Drug Offences	2,845	159	5.6	134	4.7	1,916	67.3	469	16.5	959	33.7	1,387	48.8
	YOA	7,110	1,443	20.3	1,427	20.1	3,038	42.7	829	11.7	1,567	22.0	1,036	14.6
Other Federal Statutes	97	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	26.8	57	58.8	17	17.5	20	20.6	

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counselling programs and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10



Mean and Median Length of Secure Custody Sentence, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

	1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)
Most serious offence										
Total Offences	71	30	68	30	67	30	67	30	68	30
Crimes Against the Person	111	60	107	60	106	52	110	60	114	60
Homicide	539	480	704	525	777	780	1,404	1,080	825	725
Attempted murder	582	540	380	363	263	150	377	315	378	360
Robbery	160	120	165	120	177	90	185	120	189	150
Sexual assault	248	180	204	180	173	149	161	90	183	105
Other sexual offences	197	120	156	90	149	90	165	150	189	180
Major assault	101	60	91	60	105	60	101	60	109	60
Common assault	54	30	51	30	50	30	54	30	49	30
Uttering threats	68	35	62	30	65	30	65	30	47	30
Criminal harassment	65	30	47	30	100	60	64	75	52	23
Other crimes against persons	148	90	165	105	161	90	194	180	206	180
Crimes Against Property	82	60	78	54	79	45	75	42	74	40
Theft	56	30	58	30	52	30	60	30	50	30
Break and enter	108	90	104	90	112	90	101	72	98	68
Fraud	61	30	54	30	61	30	53	30	77	38
Mischief	50	30	42	21	48	20	40	20	45	21
Possess stolen property	70	45	69	30	69	45	66	40	70	32
Other property crimes	131	75	132	90	145	120	82	83	96	45
Administration of Justice	35	24	34	21	32	20	33	20	34	21
Fail to appear	28	15	22	15	20	11	18	7	25	11
Breach of probation	32	15	30	14	21	18	22	11	10	2
Unlawfully at large	42	30	43	30	42	30	43	30	43	30
Fail to comply with order	21	10	21	10	20	10	21	9	24	10
Other admin. justice	32	30	44	30	38	30	47	30	31	5
Other Criminal Code	69	31	66	30	68	30	61	30	69	30
Weapons	63	42	63	39	58	30	54	30	59	30
Prostitution	188	38	113	60	31	31	30	30	171	76
Disturbing the peace	79	79	10	10	17	15	10	2	22	5
Residual Criminal Code	67	30	66	30	75	30	66	30	72	30
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	80	30	77	30	76	30	76	30	79	30
Criminal Code Traffic	127	90	110	90	85	60	110	90	83	60
Impaired driving	420	420	87	38	39	10	37	7	1	1
Other Criminal Code traffic	119	90	114	90	94	60	122	90	85	60
Total Criminal Code	80	31	78	30	76	30	77	30	79	30
Other Federal Statute Total	33	15	33	14	33	15	31	15	29	14
Drug possession	25	7	31	9	30	12	27	7	26	7
Drug trafficking	86	60	104	90	91	60	73	45	78	30
Young Offenders Act	28	15	26	14	27	14	27	15	25	14
Other federal statutes	...	...	11	11	...	...	1	1	...	...

... not applicable

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11



Mean and Median Length of Open Custody Sentence, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Most serious offence	1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)
Total Offences	71	42	71	40	67	30	70	36	66	30
Crimes Against the Person	92	60	93	60	89	60	93	60	90	60
Homicide	143	120	300	300	475	363	203	203	580	360
Attempted murder	18	18	90	90	150	113	380	360	450	450
Robbery	127	90	127	90	123	90	127	90	128	90
Sexual assault	164	120	182	150	151	120	190	135	192	180
Other sexual offences	179	180	151	90	129	120	155	120	161	120
Major assault	89	60	85	60	88	60	85	60	83	60
Common assault	60	30	61	30	58	30	58	30	59	30
Uttering threats	73	45	75	60	73	60	68	30	54	30
Criminal harassment	58	54	57	30	88	38	107	30	100	90
Other crimes against persons	115	90	125	90	123	90	147	120	107	90
Crimes Against Property	81	60	83	60	76	60	80	60	73	60
Theft	64	35	60	30	56	30	63	30	58	30
Break and enter	103	90	110	90	99	90	101	90	94	90
Fraud	65	53	73	50	53	30	76	45	59	43
Mischief	45	30	53	30	60	30	53	30	49	30
Possess stolen property	67	60	69	60	67	59	71	60	65	45
Other property crimes	108	90	78	60	120	90	96	90	118	90
Administration of Justice	33	21	36	21	35	21	36	30	33	30
Fail to appear	41	30	30	15	39	28	44	30	40	30
Breach of probation	33	21	28	30	30	30	44	30	17	14
Unlawfully at large	30	21	34	25	33	21	35	30	30	30
Fail to comply with order	32	15	39	20	35	21	35	21	34	21
Other admin. justice	63	30	40	30	63	60	60	30	32	30
Other Criminal Code	72	45	76	60	74	45	75	60	74	60
Weapons	71	58	74	55	69	48	73	60	69	30
Prostitution	26	30	31	31	25	30	120	120	180	180
Disturbing the peace	29	19	22	22	8	8	58	31	120	90
Residual Criminal Code	74	45	78	60	78	45	76	60	75	60
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	78	60	79	60	75	45	78	60	74	45
Criminal Code Traffic	114	90	85	45	98	60	91	60	84	60
Impaired driving	210	225	145	180	70	60	30	30	74	90
Other Criminal Code traffic	105	90	75	45	100	60	92	60	85	60
Total Criminal Code	78	60	79	60	75	45	78	60	74	45
Other Federal Statute Total	43	30	43	30	42	30	43	30	38	21
Drug possession	36	10	19	10	27	12	52	15	48	10
Drug trafficking	75	45	87	60	79	60	80	60	92	60
Young Offenders Act	40	30	39	30	39	30	39	30	34	21
Other federal statutes	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...

... not applicable

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Mean and Median Length of Probation Sentence, Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Most serious offence	1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)
Total Offences	363	360	362	360	367	360	368	360	375	360
Crimes Against the Person	395	360	395	360	400	360	402	360	410	360
Homicide	610	540	395	360	693	725	450	360	553	630
Attempted murder	523	630	410	375	545	540	458	360	489	405
Robbery	429	360	424	360	441	360	436	360	455	360
Sexual assault	523	540	530	540	539	540	519	540	534	540
Other sexual offences	549	540	534	540	563	540	545	540	574	540
Major assault	408	360	398	360	408	360	408	360	419	360
Common assault	356	360	359	360	361	360	367	360	368	360
Uttering threats	382	360	393	360	393	360	391	360	405	360
Criminal harassment	395	360	367	360	361	360	367	360	388	360
Other crimes against persons	401	360	426	360	410	360	423	360	441	360
Crimes Against Property	360	360	358	360	362	360	362	360	369	360
Theft	334	360	331	360	340	360	338	360	350	360
Break and enter	395	360	396	360	395	360	393	360	401	360
Fraud	372	360	367	360	372	360	378	360	378	360
Mischief	314	360	320	360	326	360	323	360	327	360
Possess stolen property	362	360	362	360	365	360	373	360	371	360
Other property crimes	413	360	405	360	444	360	433	360	428	360
Administration of Justice	340	360	342	360	354	360	351	360	351	360
Fail to appear	348	360	363	360	348	360	343	360	329	360
Breach of probation	332	360	364	360	395	360	345	360	374	360
Unlawfully at large	350	360	356	360	374	360	372	360	389	360
Fail to comply with order	336	360	328	360	343	360	345	360	347	360
Other admin. justice	345	360	385	360	385	360	381	360	364	360
Other Criminal Code	352	360	351	360	361	360	360	360	365	360
Weapons	364	360	372	360	379	360	367	360	373	360
Prostitution	304	360	357	360	267	360	440	450	319	270
Disturbing the peace	296	300	266	210	282	270	280	360	311	360
Residual Criminal Code	356	360	349	360	361	360	369	360	368	360
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	371	360	370	360	376	360	376	360	384	360
Criminal Code Traffic	373	360	384	360	382	360	378	360	394	360
Impaired driving	339	360	345	360	352	360	331	360	338	360
Other Criminal Code traffic	413	360	423	360	408	360	411	360	425	360
Total Criminal Code	371	360	371	360	376	360	376	360	384	360
Other Federal Statute Total	312	360	312	360	316	360	321	360	318	360
Drug possession	290	351	288	360	292	360	294	360	290	360
Drug trafficking	353	360	359	360	365	360	357	360	368	360
Young Offenders Act	307	360	303	360	307	360	318	360	314	360
Other federal statutes	302	360	341	360	248	270	301	210	257	225

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2001/02

by Julie Marinelli

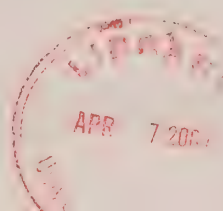
Highlights

- On any given day in 2001/02, there was an average of approximately 34,850 youths either in custody or under supervised probation in Canada. Most of the youth correctional population were in supervised probation (90%) with 8% in sentenced custody and 2% in remand.
- The total rate of youths in correctional services including remand, sentenced custody and probation was 191 per 10,000 youth population, unchanged from 2000/01.
- The youth incarceration rate in 2001/02 was 21 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 9% from the previous year and a decline of 28% from its peak in 1994/95. This decline has been primarily driven by decreases in sentenced custody.
- In 2001/02, there was a daily average of 820 youths in remand; 1,200 in secure custody and 1,400 in open custody. Youth on remand represented one-quarter (24%) of all youth in custody in 2001/02 up 14% from 1992/93.
- Supervised probation increased slightly in 2001/02, where on an average month-end, approximately 31,400 youths were on supervised probation. The supervised probation rate was 163 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 15% since its peak in 1997/98.
- In 2001/02, there were approximately 30,500 youth admissions to custody. Remand admissions represented 50% of youth custodial admissions, with open and secure custody each accounting for about one quarter.
- Time served by youth in remand is generally short – half of all remanded youth were released within one week. Half of young offenders in secure custody (54%) and 44% in open custody were released after one month or less.
- While Aboriginal persons accounted for approximately 5% of the youth population in Canada, they accounted for 25% admissions to remand, 22% of sentenced custody admissions and 17% of probation admissions in 2001/02.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides an overview of the youth correctional population (12 to 17 year-olds) in Canada for 2001/02. The data in this report represents youth corrections activity under the *Young Offenders Act*, as the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect on April 1, 2003. The information in this *Juristat* describes the caseload (average counts) of the youth correctional system over a ten year period (1992/93 to 2001/02) and case-flow of youth corrections admissions for 2001/02.

The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Youth correctional supervision programs include secure and open custody, custodial remand and community-based programs such as probation and community service and are administered under the authority of the provincial/territorial agencies responsible for youth corrections.

Custody is the most serious sentence that may be used against young offenders and may be either secure or open. Secure custody refers to facilities designated for secure restraint. Open custody generally refers to facilities such as residential centres or group homes where restrictions on movements are less severe.¹ Due to differences in policies and programs across provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth justice administration there is variation in the level of restrictions in secure and open custody across Canada.

Community-based programs such as probation often include placing a number of conditions on the young offender for a specified period of time – up to two years. Probation orders, are sometimes given in combination with other sanctions, and contain a number of mandatory conditions that require the offender to keep the peace, be of good behaviour and appear before the court as required. Optional conditions may include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school.²

Youth may be remanded to custody (temporary detention) based on a youth court decision that the youth poses a danger to society, that there may be a chance that the youth may not appear for their court hearing or for any other just cause, and where the detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. In general, most youth in custody under a “remand warrant” are awaiting a court hearing or sentencing and, as such, are held in this status for relatively short periods of time.

Box 1

This *Juristat* examines youth corrections data which are drawn from three sources. 1) The Corrections Key Indicator Report (KIR) collects average daily counts of youths in custody (remand, secure custody and open custody) and month-end probation counts. These data also form the basis for calculating incarceration and probation rates based on the number of youth in the population. 2) The Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey describes the number of admissions of youth to custody and probation according to the nature of the offence, the length of disposition ordered by the court and releases from correctional services by actual time served, as well as the characteristics of the youth. 3) The Alternative Measures (AM) survey collects data on the number of youth reaching an agreement to participate in an Alternative Measures Program according to the type of alternative measures agreement, the program outcome as well as the characteristics of the youth. Refer to Methodology section for more detail.

1. Excerpts from Sanders, 2000.
2. Excerpts from Sanders, 2000.

Box 2

Jurisdictional Comparisons

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat* and the differences between jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results in part reflect the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. Factors that contribute to differences include the varying use of informal and formal diversion measures (i.e. alternative measures) across jurisdictions. Such diversion methods have an impact on both the court case-flow as well as intakes to correctional facilities and programs.

Data on remands for Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds are unavailable, and therefore, the calculation of remand rates and total custody and correctional system rates excludes all Ontario data for 12 to 15 year-olds. Sentenced custody (open and secure) and probation rates include Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds.

Due to the unavailability of data Quebec is excluded from the analysis on average daily counts for remand, secure and open custody as well as month-end probation counts. The Northwest Territories has also been excluded from the analysis on month-end probation counts due to the unavailability of data.

As the data are drawn from the local information systems, they also reflect local case management practices as well as differences in the way the information is maintained in jurisdictional case management systems. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and to use caution in making direct comparisons between jurisdictions and with prior years.

The number of youths in corrections has increased slightly over the past 10 years

In 2001/02, there was a daily average of approximately 34,850³ youths either in custody or on supervised probation among reporting jurisdictions. This represented a slight increase of 3% from 2000/01 among jurisdictions reporting both years. In 2001/02, the majority of youth (31,400) were in supervised probation, followed by 2,600 in sentenced custody and 820 in remand. In comparison to the previous year, increases occurred in probation (1%) (Table 4) and remand (2%) while sentenced custody decreased 7% (Table 2).

The total number of youths in the correctional system on an average day has increased minimally (1%), since 1992/93 when there were 34,500⁴ youths. However, the average disposition/program profile of corrections has changed. The number of youths in sentenced custody in 2001/02 (2,600) was 21% lower than in 1992/93 (3,300). In comparison, the number of youths on supervised probation (31,400) in 2001/02 increased 3% over this period (Table 1).

Conversely, the number of youths in remand increased 54% during this ten year period. The increased use of remand has been identified as an important operational concern within correctional services in Canada, particularly in the adult system. In a more detailed examination of the issue of remands, Johnson⁵ discusses several factors that may be contributing to the increased remand caseloads among adults. These include increased levels of violent crime compared to non-violent crime, longer court processing times, the use of "time-served" sentences and increases in the duration of remand.

3. Excludes the following jurisdictions due to the unavailability of data. Remand counts excludes all of Quebec and Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds; sentenced custody counts exclude Quebec and probation counts exclude Quebec and the Northwest Territories.
4. Excludes the following jurisdictions due to the unavailability of data. Remand counts excludes all of Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds; sentenced custody and probation count excludes Quebec. Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999, therefore data for years prior to 1999 are unavailable.
5. Johnson, S. 2003. "Custodial Remand in Canada." *Juristat*, 23, 7. Catalogue no. 85-002-X1E. Ottawa. Statistics Canada.

Box 3

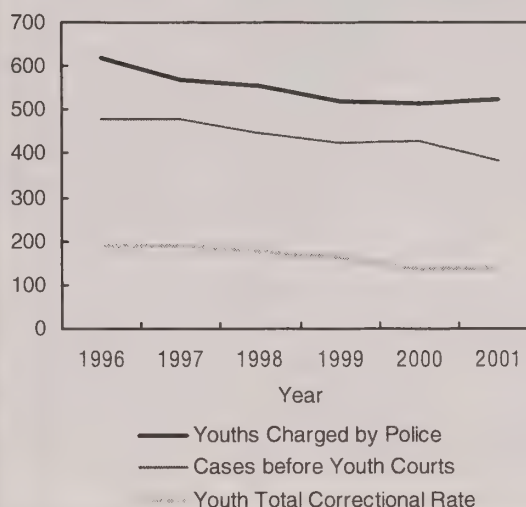
Trends in Youth Crime

Police reported crime statistics show that since 1991 the rate of youths charged by police has dropped by 34%. In 2001, youths were charged at a rate of 414 youths per 10,000 in Canada (Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2002). While the rate of youth property crime decreased consistently during this period of time, the youth crime rate for violent crimes increased 13% from 1991 to 2001. Consistent with the overall trend in police rates, the rate of cases processed in youth court declined by 10% from 1996/97 to 2001/02 (Youth Court Survey, 2003). Throughout these years, 54% of cases with convictions ended with a probation order as the most serious sentence, while 28% ended in custody.



Trends in Youth Crime, 1996-2001

Rate per 10,000 Youth



Note: Due to the unavailability of data from the Youth Key Indicator Report the following jurisdictions have been excluded for the corresponding years in order to ensure comparability.

- 1) Data for 1996 excludes Quebec, Ontario and Nunavut.
- 2) Data for 1997 to 1999 excludes Quebec, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- 3) Data for 2000 excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- 4) Data for 2001 excludes Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories. The total youth correctional rate is the average daily counts of remand, sentenced custody and supervised probation (per 10,000 youth population).

Sources: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Corrections Key Indicator Report and the Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Population Estimates: Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Analysis of rates permits an examination of trends taking into account changes in the population. While the youth correctional population has decreased slightly between 1992/93 and 2001/02, the overall youth population in Canada has increased 7% over this period. As a result, the rate of involvement of youths in the corrections system has dropped from 226 youths per 10,000 youth population in 1992/93 to 191 in 2001/02, a decrease of 15%.

Trends in youth correctional counts, 1992/93 to 2001/02

The overall youth incarceration rate⁶ in 2001/02 was 21 per 10,000 youth population, a decline of 9% compared to 2000/01 and 23% lower than in 1992/93 (27). The incarceration rate increased between 1992/93 to 1994/95 when it reached its peak of 29 per 10,000 youth population, and has dropped each year thereafter (Table 3). This decline has taken place in most jurisdictions and is due to decreases in the number of youth in sentenced (open and secure) custody.

Sentenced custody rates are declining

The sentenced custody rate was 14 per 10,000 youth in 2001/02, a 7% decline from 2000/01 and down 33% from its peak in 1994/95 when the rate was 21 youth per 10,000 youth population. The decline in sentenced custody has occurred in both secure and open custody. Secure custody accounted for slightly less than half (46%) of the sentenced custody count, while open custody comprised the remaining 54%. These proportions have remained relatively unchanged over the past 10 years.

In 2001/02, there were 6 youth per 10,000 in a secure facility, a decline of 5% from the previous year and a decline of 30% from 1992/93 (Table 4). The secure custody rate peaked in 1993/94 at 10 youth per 10,000 youth population. Among the provinces in 2001/02, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate (15) while Nova Scotia and British Columbia both reported the lowest rate (3).

Open custody trends are similar to those of secure custody. In 2001/02, the open custody rate was 7 youth per 10,000, down 11% from 2000/01 and down 29% over the past ten years (Table 4). The open custody rate has been on a downward trend since its peak in 1996/97 at 12 youth per 10,000 youth population. Among the provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick reported the highest rates (11) while British Columbia reported the lowest rate (4).

Remand rate increased slightly in 2001/02

Increases in remand counts since 1992/93 have partly offset the decline in the sentenced custody population (Table 2). In 2001/02, the remand⁷ rate was 6 youth per 10,000, an increase of 2% from the previous year and 40% higher than in 1992/93 (Table 4). In relation to the custodial population, remand comprised 24% of youths in custody in 2001/02 compared to 14% in 1992/93. The rate of remand varied considerably among the provinces in 2001/02. Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported the highest remand incarceration rates⁸ (11 and 10 youth per 10,000 youth population, respectively), while Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia reported the lowest (2). Most provinces and territories reported increases in the remand rate since 1992/93, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta and Yukon.

Supervised probation has increased slightly in 2001/02

The average month-end count of young offenders on supervised probation in 2001/02 was approximately 31,400⁹. In comparison to the previous year, supervised probation

decreased in all reporting jurisdictions with the exception of Ontario and Manitoba which increased 3% and 2% respectively. Over the last ten years, the overall trend has been decreasing for the majority of all jurisdictions with the exception of Ontario and Manitoba where supervised probation has substantially increased by 20% and 40% respectively (Table 5).

The probation rate in 2001/02 was 163 youth per 10,000 youth population, a decline of 1% from 2000/01. Probation rates have fluctuated substantially over the last ten years, (Table 6), with a peak of 191 youth per 10,000 youth population in 1997/98 and a low of 163 in 2001/02. However, the overall trend has been downward, declining 15% from its peak in 1997/98. The highest rates in supervised probation among the provinces and territories in 2001/02 were found in Ontario (205 youth per 10,000 youth population), Manitoba (204), Saskatchewan (190) and Newfoundland and Labrador (182), while Nunavut reported the lowest rate (46) (Table 6). Seven out of ten provinces reported declines in probation rates over the past ten years with the largest declines reported by Prince Edward Island (69%), Yukon (52%), British Columbia (41%), Nova Scotia (30%), Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta (22% each) and New Brunswick (14%).

Box 4

Youth Criminal Justice Act

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into effect on April 1, 2003. This legislation replaces the *Young Offenders Act*. The new legislation focuses on four core principles that clearly identify the objectives of the youth justice system in Canada. They are as follows:

- Protection of society is the paramount objective of the youth justice system, which is best achieved through prevention, meaningful consequences for youth crime and rehabilitation;
- Young people should be treated separately from adults under criminal law in a separate youth justice system that emphasizes fair and proportionate accountability, keeping in mind the dependency and level of development and maturity of youth. A separate youth justice system also includes special due process protections for youth as well as rehabilitation and reintegration;
- Measures to address youth crime must: hold the offender accountable; address the offending behaviour of the youth; reinforce respect for social values; encourage repair of the harm done to victims and the community; respect gender, ethnic, cultural and linguistic differences; involve the family, community and other agencies; and be responsive to the circumstances of youth with special requirements; and
- Parents and victims have a constructive role to play in the youth justice system, should be kept informed and encouraged to participate. (Department of Justice Canada, 2003)

Admissions to youth correctional services

The Youth Custody and Community Services Survey counts a correctional admission each time a young offender commences a particular custody status or a term of probation, including changes from one status to another (e.g., one youth held during trial in remand custody and then begins a sentence of secure

6. The youth incarceration rate is based on the total average daily population in secure or open custody or on remand against the total population aged 12 to 17 years.
7. Remand count data excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Quebec, due to the unavailability of data.
8. Ontario has been excluded from the discussion due to the unavailability of 12 to 15 year-old remand data.
9. Supervised probation month-end counts exclude Quebec and the Northwest Territories due to the unavailability of data.

custody results in two admissions). Each admission is tabulated according to one offence - the most serious offence (MSO), although it is possible that a youth is being held for multiple offences related to a single admission. Therefore, less serious offences tend to be under-represented in these statistics. For more information, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report.

Probation admissions represent the majority of admissions to youth correctional services in Canada

In 2001/02, there were approximately 38,300 probation admissions followed by remand admissions (15,400¹⁰) and sentenced custody admissions (15,100) (Table 7), divided between open custody and secure custody.

Half of youth custodial admissions are to remand

In 2001/02, there were approximately 15,400¹¹ remand admissions in 11 jurisdictions, accounting for the half of admissions to custody (50%) among these jurisdictions (Table 7). Where full coverage is available, remand accounted for 79% of admissions in Manitoba, 63% in Alberta and 62% in British Columbia. In contrast, 25% of custodial admissions in the Northwest Territories and 33% in New Brunswick were admissions to remand.

There were 15,100 admissions to secure and open custody (49% and 51% respectively) (Table 7). In comparison to the previous year, total admissions to secure custody increased 6%, while open custody admissions declined 3%. Although there was an overall increase in secure custody admissions, most jurisdictions experienced a decrease with only Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Alberta showing increases. In open custody, only Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Nunavut had increases with all remaining jurisdictions having decreases.

Probation admissions increased in 2001/02

In 2001/02, there were 38,300¹² probation admissions, an increase of 5% from the previous year. Probation admissions in 2001/02 represented more than half (56%)¹³ of the provincial and territorial correctional caseload (Table 7). The trend in probation admissions has remained relatively stable over the past four years. Although probation admissions have increased from 2000/01, there was considerable variability among reporting jurisdictions. New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan experienced increases ranging from 8 to 11%, while the remaining six reporting jurisdictions reported decreases ranging from 5 to 25% (Table 7).

Most serious offences

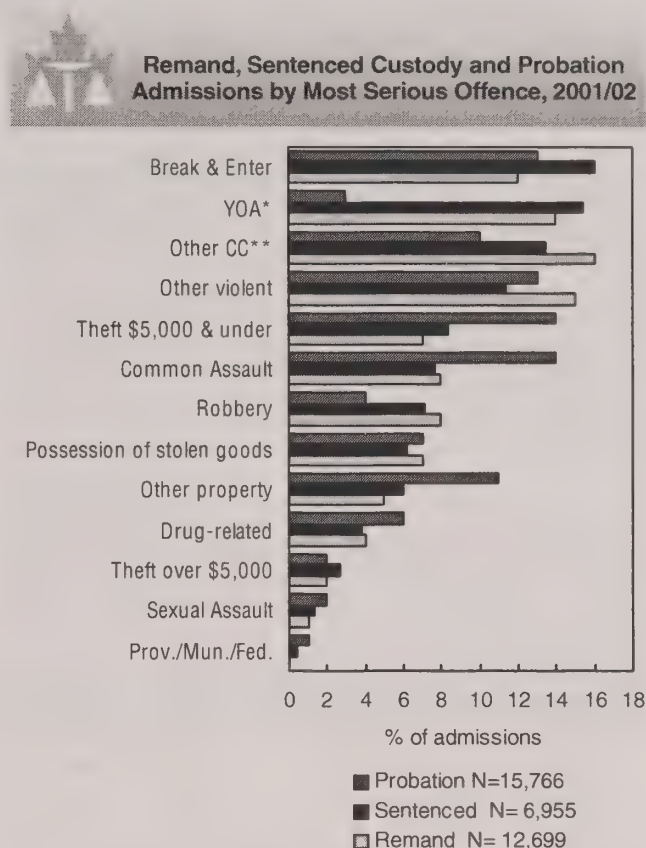
Property offences account for the majority of custody admissions

In 2001/02, property offences accounted for the highest proportion (36%) of custody admissions (remand, secure and open custody) among the nine jurisdictions that report these data¹⁴. This was the case for most jurisdictions with the exception of Manitoba where violent offences were more prevalent than property offences and British Columbia where

other offences such as drug related offences, and YOA offences were more common than both violent and property offences¹⁵.

Remand admissions were most likely to be related to either a violent or property offence, 31% each (Figure 1). However, remand admissions vary considerably by jurisdiction. The largest proportion of remand admissions were for violent

Figure 1



Note: Due to the unavailability of data remand and sentenced custody (open and secure custody) excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, Saskatchewan and Yukon. Probation data excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Percent totals may not add due to rounding.

* YOA includes offences such as failure to comply with a disposition and contempt against youth court.

** Other CC includes offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

10. Excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

11. Excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

12. Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

13. Excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan for remand; the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for probation, due to the unavailability of data.

14. These nine jurisdictions are Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario 16 to 17 year-olds, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

15. Please note that admissions are calculated according to the most serious offence and, as such, less serious offences are under-represented.

offences in Manitoba (60%), the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (47% each). In comparison, admissions to remand were most common for property offences in Nunavut (42%), Prince Edward Island (41%), Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba (38% each), Ontario 16 to 17 year-olds (36%) and Alberta (33%). In British Columbia, 39% of youths were remanded for other offences (i.e. drug related offences, YOA offences and municipal/provincial/federal offences) while in Nova Scotia, 'Other Criminal Code' offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct accounted for 30% of their admissions (Table 8).

Offence data for probation are available for six jurisdictions.¹⁶ Overall, the most frequent offence type was property offences (47%), the only exception being Yukon, where violent offences were most prevalent (51%). Overall, violent offences accounted for 32% of probation admissions; other types of Criminal Code offences (e.g. failure to appear and disorderly conduct), 10%; YOA offences (failure to comply), 3%; drug-related offences, 7%; and other offences, 1% (Figure 1).

Violent offences account for 32% of probation admissions and 28% of sentenced custody admissions. One third of sentenced custody admissions, 37% of remand admissions and 21% of probation admissions were for YOA and other Criminal Code offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct (Table 8).

Many jurisdictions have policies that limit the use of alternative measures in more serious crimes. Most alternative measure cases are for non-violent crimes: 64% of alternative measure admissions in 2001/02 were for property offences. Compared to other dispositions, only a small proportion of alternative measures admissions were for violent (10%) and other offences (7%) (Table 8).

Releases

One-half of remand releases occurred within one week of admission

A youth may be released from remand for a number of reasons that include: a transfer into another form of supervision (i.e., open custody, secure custody, probation), a court finding of not guilty, or alternatively, a court finding of guilty where the court has considered the time spent in remand as sufficient punishment for the crime (time served).

In 2001/02, among nine reporting jurisdictions¹⁹, half (50%) of youth remand releases occurred within one week of admission, 30% spent between one week and one month in custody on remand, 19% served between one to six months, and one percent of remand releases took place after a period of more than 6 months (Table 11).

Since 1997/98, time spent on remand has increased (Table 12). In 1997/98, 56% of youths were released after serving 1 week or less in custody compared to 50% in 2001/02. The proportion of youths released after one to 6 months increased from 15% in 1997/98 to 19% in 2001/02 and the proportion of youth released after 6 months or more also increased slightly.

Box 5

Alternative measures in Canada

Alternative Measures refer to formalized programs through which persons who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with via non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Alternative Measures include programs which have been authorized by the Attorney General in a province or territory that may be offered at the pre-charge stage, the post-charge stage, or both. Pursuant to the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) these programs are designed to balance society's right to protection against the needs of youth in contact with the law.

The involvement of a youth in an alternative measures program depends upon the youth acknowledging participation in the incident and agreeing to enter into the program. There were approximately 26,100 cases that resulted in alternative measures agreements among the reporting jurisdictions in 2001/02. This represents an increase of 1% from 2000/01 among the seven jurisdictions reporting both years. The number of alternative measures cases reaching agreement in 2001/02 is 18% lower than in 1997/98 in ten jurisdictions where data are available (Table 9).

The participation rate of alternative measures increased 1% from 2000/01 and declined 18% since 1997/98. The rate among the ten¹⁷ reporting jurisdictions ranged from 57 per 10,000 youth in Ontario to 288 per 10,000 youth in the Northwest Territories in 2001/02 (Table 10). Over the five years, there have been no consistent national trends however there have been jurisdictional fluctuations over this period.

There is considerable flexibility in the decision to establish alternative measures and the way in which the program will be offered. Typical programs include community service, personal service or restitution to a victim, apologies or educational sessions. In 2001/02, community service was the most frequent type of alternative measure administered by reporting jurisdictions (27%), followed by an apology (16%) and social skills improvement (12%).

Youth are considered successful in alternative measures once all terms and conditions of the agreement have been satisfied. In 2001/02, 77% of youth in reporting jurisdictions successfully completed all measures stated within their agreements¹⁸. Consequently, if a youth fails to complete the alternative measures program successfully, the case is returned to the Crown who may close the case (take no further action), consider another term in alternative measures or choose to proceed with prosecution of the case.

Box 6

Youth Criminal Justice Act: Extrajudicial Measures

Alternative Measures have been removed and incorporated into the extrajudicial measures scheme under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The YCJA recognizes a broader range of diversionary measures. Extrajudicial measures are set out in the YCJA according to the following principles:

- extrajudicial measures are an effective way to address youth crime;
- extrajudicial measures allow for effective and timely interventions focused on correcting offending behaviour, and;
- extrajudicial measures are presumed to be adequate to hold a young person accountable for his or her offending behaviour if the young person has committed a non-violent offence and has not previously been found guilty of an offence.

Specifically, the YCJA includes warnings, police and crown cautions, referrals and extrajudicial sanctions. Extrajudicial sanctions are comparable to the current alternative measures.

The YCJA also states that extrajudicial measures be designed to provide an effective and timely response to offending behaviour outside the bounds of judicial measures. In addition, the YCJA encourages the youth and the victim/community to be involved in the design and implementation of the programs and participate in the decisions related to accountability and reparation.

16. Probation admissions data by most serious offences includes data from Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario 16 to 17 year-olds, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon.

17. Excludes Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

18. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

19. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

Box 7

Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to distinguish between sentence lengths on admission and those on release. While a youth court judge stipulates the period of custody, events such as appeals, reviews, escapes, and the administration of additional sentences may influence the amount of time served. In addition, correctional service officials may move the young offender from secure custody to open custody, in compliance with jurisdictional procedures. Time served on release may differ from time ordered at sentencing for these reasons.

Five in ten releases from sentenced custody occurred within one month of admission

In 2001/02, there were 12,600 releases from sentenced custody of which 5,900 were secure custody releases and 6,700 were open custody releases among the ten jurisdictions reporting these data (Table 13). Where full coverage is available²⁰ in 2001/02, 54% of secure custody releases occurred within one month of admission or less. Time served in open custody is somewhat longer, with 44% serving a period of one month or less.

One-third of young offender probation orders exceed one year

In 2001/02, slightly more than half (53%) of youth probationers served terms of 6 months to one year. Probation admissions for terms between one to two years represented 31% and terms longer than two years represented 3% (Table 14). Length of time served on probation has been fairly consistent from year to year.

Characteristics of Young Offenders in Correctional Services

As with adults, the majority of youths involved in crime are male. Over three-quarters (76%) of youth charged with a Criminal Code offence in 2001 were male and 24% were female (UCR, 2001). Similarly, approximately eight in ten youth court cases and admissions to correctional services involved males in 2001/02. The proportion of males varies only slightly by correctional program. In 2001/02, 83% of secure custody, and 80% in open custody admissions were males compared to 77% remand or probation admissions. Males account for a lower proportion of participants in Alternative Measures compared to other correctional programs.

Male youths admitted to custody, probation and alternative measures tend to be older than females

Males in custody tend to be older than females (Figure 2). In 2001/02, 60% of male youths remanded were aged 16 years or older compared to 49% of females²¹. Similarly, 61% of male sentenced custody offenders were aged 16 or older, compared with 42% of female sentenced custody offenders²². With respect to probation, 62% of males were 16 years and older whereas 50% of females were that age (Figure 2). Offenders aged 16 and older accounted for 69% of male alternative measures admissions compared to 31% of female admissions.

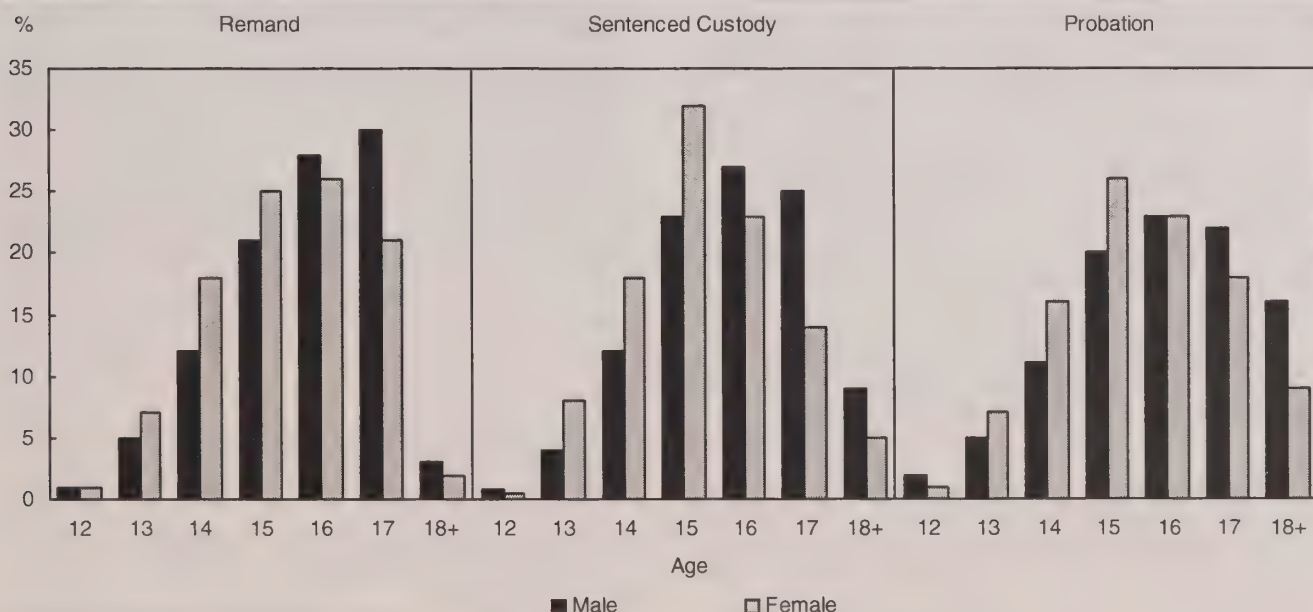
20. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

21. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

22. Excludes New Brunswick and Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Figure 2

Male youth in custody and probation are generally older than female youth, 2001/02



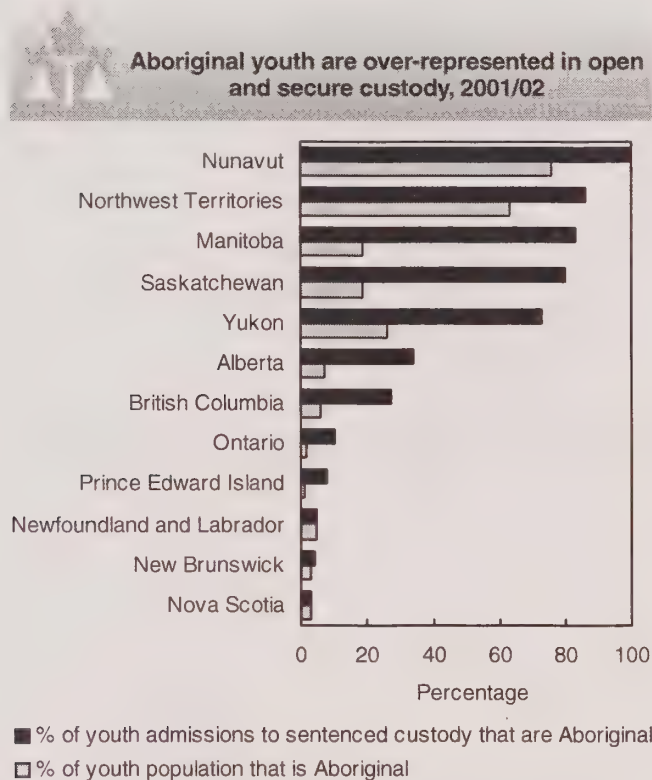
Note: Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, and Saskatchewan; sentenced custody excludes New Brunswick and Quebec; probation excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal youth over-represented in youth correctional services

Aboriginal youth are disproportionately represented at all points in the criminal justice system. While Aboriginal youth constituted 5% of the youth population (according to the 2001 Census Population), they accounted for approximately one in four admissions to remand (25%) and 22% of sentenced custody admissions in 2001/02. This over-representation is particularly evident in Western Canada and the Territories where Aboriginal populations are larger (Figure 3). Over-representation is even more pronounced for female Aboriginal youth. Of the total admissions for females, Aboriginal youth females constituted 32% of remand admissions and 25% of admissions to sentenced custody. Male aboriginal youth accounted for 23% of remand admissions and 21% of sentenced custody admissions.

Figure 3



Note: Due to the unavailability of data Quebec has been excluded. Aboriginal includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the Indian Act and those that are non-registered.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Aboriginal population.

In 2001/02, Aboriginal youth accounted for 17% of probation²³ admissions and 16% of alternative measures cases²⁴. However, Aboriginal youth accounted for 25% of remand, 23% of secure custody and 22% of open custody.

Methodology

This *Juristat* contains data collected from three different sources, the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, Alternative Measures (AM) survey, and the Key Indicator Report. The YCCS survey maintains both micro and aggregate level data, which are collected by provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the delivery of youth corrections and young offender programs. These data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). These data have been available since 1997/98. In 2001/02, Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta provided case-specific information to the YCCS (i.e., micro-level data) that were then used to generate the aggregate level admission counts reported in this *Juristat*. These respondents represent roughly 13% of the national caseload. The remainder of reporting jurisdictions provided aggregate counts²⁵. Because of the limited coverage provided by the case-specific survey, analysis in this report has been limited to aggregated data.

Jurisdictions providing aggregate data complete a set of standard data tables, which are used to compile national data on admissions and releases. Micro-data, on the other hand, are extracted directly from provincial operational systems, through the use of system interface programs. The interface programs are designed to extract specific data elements and values identified in the survey's National Data Requirements developed by provincial/territorial and federal members of the National Justice Statistics Initiative. Micro-data reported by the jurisdictions are centrally processed, edited, and loaded onto the YCCS database. These data are used to generate admission counts which are tabulated in the aggregate standard data tables. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. For example, while overall totals for Alberta program admissions are generally consistent with those generated by the YCCS process, there are substantial differences in their breakdown according to most serious offence such that these statistics cannot be reproduced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics that have been generated locally.

It is important to note that for both aggregate and micro level respondents, once the data are processed and compiled into standard data tables, these data are analyzed and returned to the jurisdictions for final verification. The participation of jurisdictions in the survey process is vital to ensuring data quality and understanding the differences in provincial and territorial youth justice/correctional systems.

23. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

24. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

25. Includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Box 8

Unit of analysis

Admissions data measure the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are tabulated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied judicial interim release and held in remand until he or she was sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts: e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

Admissions: 1 admission to remand
1 admission to secure custody
1 admission to open custody
1 admission to probation

Youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as a new admission. As well, new admission counts exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as a new admission.

The Alternative Measures (AM) survey is conducted in conjunction with the YCCS survey. The AM survey collects aggregate data on the administration of alternative measures in Canada. The unit of analysis that is used for the Alternative Measures survey is the case. A case refers to one person's activity in the Alternative Measures program for one incident. An incident is a specific event wherein a person is alleged to have committed one or more related offences. "Related" refers to a sequence of criminal actions that occur at the same location or where one action led to the occurrence of another. The focus of this survey is on cases for which an agreement for alternative measures has been reached (i.e., when a person agrees to participate in the alternative measures process) according to the conditions and obligations contained therein. The processes and compilation of AM data are identical to those of the YCCS survey.

Data from the Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of youth in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. The data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format. Average counts include all youth on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a youth correctional facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young offenders on probation include young offenders on supervised probation at the end of the month.

Glossary of Terms

Youth Key Indicators

Actual-in counts – Includes all youths on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time the count is taken.

Calculation of rates of incarceration – Rates of incarceration for "actual-in" counts for youth are calculated for each jurisdiction using the population at risk. That is, the provincial/territorial population aged 12 to 17 years. For those jurisdictions with split responsibilities, rates of incarceration reflect the respective population at risk. It should be noted that some

jurisdictions may hold persons up to 20 years of age, if the offender was charged/sentenced while less than 18 years old, but has since reached the age of a legal adult. The average count for the month is divided by the Canadian youth population, then the result is multiplied by 10,000 to obtain the rate per 10,000 youths.

Monthly average daily count calculation – The data for monthly average daily counts are calculated by dividing the total days (or total "bed" days) for all correctional institutions within the jurisdiction by the number of days in the month.

Month-end probation count – Data are an indication of the current monthly caseload of young offenders on supervised probation.

Remand/temporary detention counts – Includes only those youths detained in custody under a Remand Warrant who are awaiting a further court appearance, and are not presently serving any type of sentence.

Sentenced counts – Includes all youths in custody under a Warrant of Committal serving a provincial/territorial or federal sentence, as well as those persons who have been sentenced on one charge but who are awaiting the completion of court hearings on another charge. Also includes youths that have completed a custodial sentence and have been returned to custody following a breach of conditions of any other sentence order.

Supervised probation – Includes all youths who must, as a condition of a probation order "report to and be under the supervision of a probation officer or other person designated by the court".

Youth Custody and Community Services

Aboriginal Status: Indicates whether the youth is Aboriginal. Aboriginal status includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the *Indian Act* and those that are non-registered. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

Admission: Refers to the youth's commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new admission is counted each time an offender changes status.

Admission Facility: The facility to which a young offender is admitted into custody. Please note that the YCCS survey does not track facilities beyond the admitting facility (e.g., administrative and other transfers) unless the offender's status changes. When comparing jurisdictions, please note the following:

- facilities may be secure or open custody facilities according to the local designation, the level of supervision, and the extent to which the youths are detained through security measures;
- secure facilities in some jurisdictions may be comparable to open facilities in others and vice versa; and

- c) in some jurisdictions, secure custody, open custody and remand are all dealt with at the same facility.

Age: Refers to the age of the offender at the time of admission into a youth facility or community program.

Custody: A status that requires the young offender to spend time in a designated correctional facility, either in secure custody, open custody or remand as ordered by the youth court.

Disposition: A youth court orders a disposition upon finding a young person guilty of an offence. The types of dispositions include the following:

- a) Custodial dispositions: include secure custody and open custody; and
- b) Community service dispositions: include probation, community service order, personal service order, compensation, restitution, pay purchaser, fine, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, other disposition deemed appropriate.

Initial Entry: Refers to the point or type of supervision that a youth first enters the youth corrections system regardless of supervision status.

Most Serious Offence: The YCCS survey categorizes “most serious offence” (MSO) according to the offence classification scheme currently being used by the Youth Court Survey. Offence types are categorized from most to least serious, as follows: violent, drug related, property, other *Criminal Code*, YOA, and provincial/municipal or other federal offences. The MSO categories include the following:

1. **Violent offences:** include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion. Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person. Robbery is considered a violent offence because unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.
2. **Drug related offences:** include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* such as importing/exporting narcotics, trafficking in narcotics, possession of narcotics, cultivation, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drugs.
3. **Property offences:** include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief. Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person.
4. **Other Criminal Code offences:** include offences such as prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escape custody, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, soliciting, and offences against the administration of justice.
5. **YOA offences:** include offences such as failure to comply with a court ordered disposition, and contempt against youth court.

6. **Provincial/Territorial, Municipal and Other Federal offences:** include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Open custody: The *Young Offenders Act* defines open custody as “custody in (a) a community residential centre, group home, childcare institution, or forest or wilderness camp or (b) any like place or facility”. A facility is considered “open” when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. The extent to which facilities are “open” varies across jurisdictions.

Probation: A common type of community-based disposition, where the offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. This includes both supervised and unsupervised probation.

Release: Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted each time an offender changes status.

Remand: To hold a young person temporarily in custody, pursuant to a Remand Warrant, while awaiting trial or sentencing, or prior to commencement of a custodial disposition.

Reporting Period: The time period (e.g., fiscal year – April 1 to March 31) during which a youth must be active in order to be extracted for YCCS survey purposes. A youth is active if he/she is under the supervision of the Provincial/Territorial Director of youth corrections (e.g., serving a disposition).

Secure Custody: Under the *Young Offenders Act* a facility is considered secure when youths are detained by security devices, including those which operate with full perimeter security features and/or where youths are under constant observation. The extent to which facilities are “secure” varies across jurisdictions.

Sentence Length: This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve under the *Young Offenders Act*. The specific amount of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple **custodial sentences** (i.e., secure and open custody), if dispositions are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the dispositions are consecutive then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if dispositions are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

Sentenced Custody: Refers to both secure and open custody

Status of Supervision: The status in which the young offender is serving a sentenced disposition (e.g., secure custody, open custody, probation or other community service) as ordered by a youth court or is held temporarily in remand before a court hearing.

Time Served: Refers to the aggregate time served or total amount of days a young person spent in custody upon completion of an uninterrupted period of time during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

Young Offender: A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

Alternative Measures

Age: Derived as the difference between the last day of the month for which the count is taken and the date of birth. A young person can start a measure when 17 years old and remain active in the measure at age 18 or older.

Alternative Measures:

The following are official alternative measures:

- Supervision (i.e., other than community service, personal services).
- Community Service
- Personal Services to Victim (e.g., mediation programs)
- Compensation
- Counselling
- Educational Program (e.g., voluntary police class)
- Apology (verbal or written)
- Charitable Donations
- Other Alternative Measures

Case Authorized: An authorized case refers to a case for which the young person has received final authorization for Alternative Measures from the Crown, and Provincial Director and/or Special Committees.

Case Closed Agreement(s) Closed: Refers to a case that reached agreement and was closed. One case may have had more than one agreement and all agreements must be closed for that case to be closed.

Case Reaching Agreement(s): Refers to a case for which the young person has agreed to participate in Alternative Measures. A case may have more than one agreement reached at the same time.

Case Outcome: Refers to the outcome of each case that reached agreement and was closed. One outcome is counted for each case reaching agreement. Outcome is counted as either completed successfully, partially successful, not successful or not stated.

Most Serious Offence (MSO): Refers to the seriousness of an offence according to the type of offence and its potential impact on the young person.

One MSO is counted for each case reaching agreement. In a case where there is only one offence, that offence is the most serious. In a case where there is more than one offence, the MSO is determined by the most serious offence found within the following offence severity scale, ordered from most to least serious offence groups. The MSO category includes the following:

Alternative measures offence severity scale:

- 1) **Against Person:** Major: Assault (Level 1 (physical and sexual)); robbery; criminal negligence.
- 2) **Against Person:** Minor: possession of weapons; carrying concealed weapons.
- 3) **Narcotics:** Minor: possession.
- 4) **Against Property:** Major: Theft over \$5,000; take motor vehicle without consent; break and enter; arson.
- 5) **Against Property:** Minor: criminal breach of trust; theft of credit card; possession of stolen property; fraud; forgery; mischief.
- 6) **Other Criminal Code:** Trespassing; vagrancy; dangerous operation of motor vehicle; corrupting morals; impaired driving possession of break and enter tools, indecent telephone calls.
- 7) **Young Offenders Act:** Failure to comply.
- 8) **Other Federal Statutes**

Participation in Alternative Measures: Refers to the average number of cases that were active at any point during the month. The total number of cases in AM may be greater than the total number of cases reaching agreement because the young person may be active in more than one measure at the same time.

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Table 1

Proportion of Average Daily Counts of Youth in Corrections, 1992/93 and 2001/02

	1992/93 ¹		2001/02 ²		% change from 1992/93 to 2001/02
	Average Daily Count	% of Total Correctional Count	Average Daily Count	% of Total Correctional Count	
Total Correctional	34,491	100	34,848	100	1
Remand	534	2	821	2	54
<i>Sentenced Custody</i>	3,330	10	2,625	8	-21
Secure Custody	1,556	5	1,216	3	-22
Open Custody	1,774	5	1,409	4	-21
<i>Total Custody</i>	3,864	11	3,446	10	-11
Probation	30,627	89	31,402	90	3

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

1. Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes Ontario (12 to 15 year olds) and Quebec; secure and open custody and probation excludes Quebec.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes Ontario (12 to 15 year olds) and Quebec; secure and open custody excludes Quebec and probation excludes Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Average Number of Young Offenders on Remand and Sentenced Custody by Jurisdiction, 1992/93, 2000/01 and 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹					Secure Custody ²					Open Custody ²				
	Average Daily Count			% Change of Average Daily Counts		Average Daily Count			% Change of Average Daily Counts		Average Daily Count			% Change of Average Daily Counts	
	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02
	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02
Total	534	801	821	53	2	1,556	1,253	1,216	-22	-3	1,774	1,564	1,409	-21	-10
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	15	12	-8	-20	68	33	38	-44	15	77	48	49	-36	2
Prince Edward Island	3	3	2	-33	-33	28	5	8	-71	60	19	10	6	-68	-40
Nova Scotia	16	21	25	56	19	40	20	20	-50	0	108	97	74	-31	-24
New Brunswick	14	15	11	-21	-27	86	48	55	-36	15	100	84	63	-37	-25
Quebec	.	.	.	...	...	.	.	.	...	...	.	.	.	...	...
Ontario	191	357	368	93	3	788	684	655	-17	-4	868	810	737	-15	-9
Manitoba	52	104	109	110	5	77	67	65	-16	-3	101	105	88	-13	-16
Saskatchewan	43	79	95	121	20	129	161	138	7	-14	119	101	102	-14	1
Alberta	140	119	110	-21	-8	209	131	130	-38	-1	194	136	124	-36	-9
British Columbia	54	78	76	41	-3	106	83	82	-23	-1	156	128	128	-18	0
Yukon	3	3	1	-67	-67	4	2	2	-50	0	3	5	4	33	-20
Northwest Territories ³	5	2	6	...	200	21	16	19	...	19	29	36	30	...	-17
Nunavut	.	5	5	...	0	.	4	4	...	0	.	4	4	...	0

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

. not available for any reference period

... not applicable

1. Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year olds and Quebec.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, secure and open custody excludes Quebec.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Youth Incarceration Rates per 10,000 Youth Population by Jurisdiction, 1992/93 to 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Incarceration Rate ¹									
	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Total*	26.7	28.3	28.8	27.7	27.5	26.1	25.0	23.5	22.7	20.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	26.4	24.8	26.9	26.0	28.1	24.2	23.0	21.4	20.7	22.0
Prince Edward Island	42.8	39.6	30.0	29.0	32.9	22.9	18.8	17.9	14.8	13.6
Nova Scotia	21.3	20.9	22.5	22.9	23.0	19.4	19.3	17.7	18.1	15.6
New Brunswick	30.2	32.3	31.2	31.4	31.1	25.7	23.3	23.6	24.3	21.6
Quebec	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario ²	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manitoba	24.3	29.1	31.6	30.1	32.8	32.5	31.1	30.2	27.9	26.3
Saskatchewan	31.4	33.9	36.9	36.9	37.2	39.6	41.2	36.6	35.8	35.3
Alberta	24.2	27.2	26.9	24.4	22.3	18.8	17.8	16.4	14.5	13.6
British Columbia	11.9	13.1	14.1	13.5	13.0	12.2	11.3	10.3	9.2	9.1
Yukon	40.5	32.2	48.1	56.1	55.9	62.6	49.2	47.3	32.2	25.0
Northwest Territories ³	85.1	95.8	137.2	142.5	157.1	98.6	80.7	157.8	133.6	132.9
Nunavut ⁴	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	37.0	37.6

Note: The total youth incarceration rate is overestimated due to the exclusion of Ontario 12 to 15 year olds data for all corresponding reference years.

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

* National figures exclude Ontario 12 to 15 year olds and Quebec for all reference years.

1. The incarceration rate is the average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youth population.

2. Data available only for Ontario 16-17 year olds. The partial Ontario incarceration rate overestimated the overall Ontario rate, therefore it has been only included in the total incarceration rate for Canada.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Nunavut data for 1999/00 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; and Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Young Offenders on Remand, Secure and Open Custody per 10,000 Youth Population by Jurisdiction, 1992/93 and 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Remand			Secure Custody			Open Custody		
	Rate ¹		% Change of Average Daily Rates	Rate ¹		% Change of Average Daily Rates	Rate ¹		% Change of Average Daily Rates
	1992/93	2001/02		1992/93	2001/02		1992/93	2001/02	
	1992/93	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	1992/93	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	1992/93	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02
Total²	4.5	6.3	40	9.0	6.3	-30	10.3	7.3	-29
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.2	2.7	24	11.4	8.4	-26	12.9	10.9	-16
Prince Edward Island	2.5	1.6	-35	23.5	6.5	-72	16.0	4.9	-69
Nova Scotia	2.1	3.3	57	5.2	2.6	-50	14.1	9.7	-31
New Brunswick	2.1	1.8	-13	12.9	9.2	-29	15.0	10.5	-30
Quebec	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario ³	6.8	11.7	72	9.6	6.9	-28	10.6	7.8	-26
Manitoba	5.5	10.9	99	8.1	6.5	-20	10.7	8.8	-18
Saskatchewan	4.6	10.0	116	13.9	14.5	4	12.8	10.7	-16
Alberta	6.2	4.1	-34	9.3	4.9	-47	8.6	4.6	-47
British Columbia	2.0	2.4	17	4.0	2.6	-35	5.9	4.0	-32
Yukon	12.2	3.4	-72	16.2	6.9	-57	12.2	13.8	13
Northwest Territories ⁴	7.9	14.6	...	33.1	46.3	...	45.7	73.2	...
Nunavut	...	14.4	...	...	11.6	...	...	9.8	...

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

... not applicable

1. Rate per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data Quebec has been excluded for both years.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds have been excluded from the remand rates.

4. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Average Month-End Counts of Young Offenders on Probation by Jurisdiction, 1992/93, 2000/01 and 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Probation				
	Average Month-End Count			% Change of Average Month-End Counts	
	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	1992/93 to 2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02
Total¹	30,627	30,357	31,402	3²	1³
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,397	858	818	-41	-5
Prince Edward Island	485	176	157	-68	-11
Nova Scotia	1,372	1,105	961	-30	-13
New Brunswick	1,028	..	789	-23	...
Quebec	.	.	.	...	...
Ontario	16,079	18,737	19,343	20	3
Manitoba	1,456	1,998	2,042	40	2
Saskatchewan	1,769	1,810	1,804	2	0
Alberta	2,962	2,852	2,756	-7	-3
British Columbia ⁴	3,877	2,754 ^r	2,670 ^r	-31	-3
Yukon	81	67	46	-43	-31
Northwest Territories	121	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	.	..	16	...	...

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Due to the unavailability of data Ontario 12 to 15 year olds and Quebec; all years and the Northwest Territories for 2001/02 have been excluded.

2. Excludes the Northwest Territories for 1992/93 and Nunavut for 2001/02 due to comparability issues.

3. Excludes New Brunswick and Nunavut for 2001/02 due to comparability issues.

4. Due to system changes in 1999/00, British Columbia does not have historically comparable data before April 2000. The 1999/00 data cannot be compared to 2000/01 data. Data for 2000/01 and 2001/02 have been revised.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6



Youth Probation Rates per 10,000 Youth Population by Jurisdiction, 1992/93 to 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Probation Rate ¹									
	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Total²	177.9	181.8	185.1	173.5	169.9	191.2	177.7	177.3	164.7	162.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	233.4	238.9	222.3	230.9	240.3	227.6	219.0	202.3	185.6	181.9
Prince Edward Island	407.2	412.8	396.4	311.2	266.0	247.3	221.0	165.9	143.1	127.0
Nova Scotia	179.6	181.7	192.8	212.6	198.0	187.7	176.5	165.4	145.1	126.2
New Brunswick	154.2	171.9	182.5	197.5	188.3	187.9	167.8	161.4	...	131.8
Quebec	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario ³	196.1	200.4	203.3	...	...	224.2	199.9	214.8	201.1	204.8
Manitoba	153.8	169.0	186.4	207.6	212.0	197.5	207.1	197.1	201.8	204.1
Saskatchewan	190.8	184.8	169.8	174.2	182.8	194.4	209.6	205.6	189.9	190.0
Alberta	131.9	127.1	128.6	134.6	134.3	126.4	122.4	110.4	107.1	102.9
British Columbia ⁴	146.0	142.8	153.7	152.1	143.8	134.8	128.9	112.1	86.3 ^r	85.8 ^r
Yukon	328.2	326.1	320.8	433.5	471.5	444.3	378.6	322.7	225.9	157.2
Northwest Territories ⁵	190.7	662.7	947.7	783.7	783.0	...	...	...	...	...
Nunavut ⁶	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.0

... not applicable

^r revised

1. The probation rate is the averaged month-end counts of probation per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, probation excludes Quebec for all years; New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for 2000/01; and the Northwest Territories for 2001/02.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds for 1995/96 and 1996/97 have been excluded.

4. Due to system changes in 1999/00, British Columbia does not have historically comparable data before April 2000. The 1999/00 data cannot be compared to 2000/01 data.

5. Data from 1992/93 to 1996/97 includes Nunavut data. Due to the unavailability of data the Northwest Territories have been excluded from 1997/98 to 2001/02.

6. Nunavut data for 1999/00 and 2000/01 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut in 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Youth Correctional Service Admissions, 2000/01 and 2001/02

	Remand ¹			Secure Custody			Open Custody			Probation ²		
	2000/01	2001/02	% change	2000/01	2001/02	% change	2000/01	2001/02	% change	2000/01	2001/02	% change
Total³	15,055	15,359	2	6,958	7,385	6	7,951	7,702	-3	36,509	38,261	5
Total ⁴	9,362	8,805	-6	6,958	7,385	6	7,951	7,702	-3	36,509	38,261	5
Newfoundland and Labrador	211	224	6	183	168	-8	146	152	4	627	590	-6
Prince Edward Island	47	54	15	33	37	12	21	36	71	154	134	-13
Nova Scotia	303	388	28	25	30	20	344	287	-17	1,290	1,151	-11
New Brunswick	194	195	1	221	235	6	190	166	-13	718	797	11
Quebec	2,021	2,212	9	1,111	1,023	-8	933	921	-1	7,867	8,556	9
Ontario ⁵	5,693	6,554	15	3,359	4,020	20	4,259	4,342	2	16,634	17,909	8
Manitoba	2,077	1,602	-23	168	166	-1	310	267	-14	1,183	1,316	11
Saskatchewan	..	..	...	285	261	-8	329	325	-1	1,507	1,640	9
Alberta	2,406	2,353	-2	845	897	6	584	510	-13	3,139	2,954	-6
British Columbia	1,946	1,610	-17	560	458	-18	649	546	-16	3,333	3,171	-5
Yukon	63	43	-32	26	19	-27	27	14	-48	57	43	-25
Northwest Territories	39	39	0	96	37	-61	110	79	-28	..	..	...
Nunavut	55	85	55	46	34	-26	49	57	16	..	..	...

Note: YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. For example, while overall totals for Alberta program admissions are generally consistent with those generated by the YCCS process, there are substantial differences in their breakdown according to most serious offence such that these statistics cannot be reproduced by Alberta Correctional Services. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Remand counts in 2001/02 exclude Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan; the percent change over the previous year for total admissions excludes these jurisdictions.

2. Probation counts in 2001/02 exclude the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year also excludes these jurisdictions.

3. Total represents all jurisdictions where data are available.

4. Total that represents all jurisdictions, excluding those who were unable to provide data.

5. Ontario provided partial remand data for youths 16 to 17 years of age.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Distribution of Youth Admissions to Remand, Sentenced Custody, Probation and Alternative Measures by Most Serious Offence and Jurisdiction, 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Remand				Sentenced Custody (Secure and Open)				Probation				Alternative Measures			
	Violent	Property	Other 'Criminal Code' ¹	Other Offences ²	Violent	Property	Other 'Criminal Code' ¹	Other Offences ²	Violent	Property	Other 'Criminal Code' ¹	Other Offences ²	Violent	Property	Other 'Criminal Code' ³	Other Offences ⁴
Total	31	31	14	23	28	39	13	20	32	47	10	11	10	64	19	7
Newfoundland and Labrador	22	38	24	15	23	48	15	15	25	45	13	17	24	52	1	22
Prince Edward Island	22	41	13	24	21	51	3	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	24	24	30	22	20	33	21	26	23	38	19	20	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	58	15	11
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario ⁵	33	36	17	14	29	43	16	12	33	49	9	9	5	77	14	2
Manitoba	60	38	0	0	62	37	0	1	..	..	..	..	3	65	25	6
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	52	30	7
Alberta	17	33	23	27	21	42	15	22	31	50	8	11	12	60	20	7
British Columbia	29	23	9	39	21	23	6	51	36	42	11	11	..	..	..	..
Yukon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	37	2	9	15	40	0	45
Northwest Territories	47	32	11	11	36	51	7	6	..	..	..	..	14	42	19	25
Nunavut	47	42	4	7	23	57	8	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Other 'Criminal Code' offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

2. Other offences include drug related offences, YOA, and provincial/municipal/other federal offences.

3. Other 'Criminal Code' for alternative measures includes mischief, disturbing the peace and other 'Criminal Code' offences.

4. Other offences for alternative measures include drug offences, other federal statutes and other.

5. Due to the unavailability of data, remand, sentenced custody and probation exclude Ontario 12 to 15 year olds and alternative measures data excludes Ontario 16 to 17 year olds.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Youth Participation in Alternative Measures by Jurisdiction, 1997/98 to 2001/02

Number of Cases Reaching Agreement in Alternative Measures

Jurisdiction	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	% change 2000/01 to 2001/02	% change 1997/98 to 2001/02
Newfoundland and Labrador	780	502	577	537	496	-8	-36
Prince Edward Island	180	187	127	106	170	60	-6
Nova Scotia	1,182	1,010	..	..	..	...	...
New Brunswick	718	726	..	..	587	...	-18
Quebec	9,683	9,279	9,162	9,126	9,287	2	-4
Ontario	7,294	6,000	6,037	5,508	5,354	-3	-27
Manitoba	1,934	1,509	1,866	1,509	1,658	10	-14
Saskatchewan ¹	1,731	1,796	1,415	2,312	2,380	3	37
Alberta ²	9,111	10,014	5,223	5,892	5,966	...	-35
British Columbia	..	2,003	..	..	..	...	...
Yukon	47	42	44	50	68	36	45
Northwest Territories ³	212	105	..	..	118	...	...
Nunavut ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	...	...
Total⁵	32,872	33,173	19,228	19,148	26,084	1⁶	-18⁷

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Due to data fluctuations for alternative measures cases in Saskatchewan, caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2000/01 data and previous years data because of changes in their data collection procedures that occurred in that year.

2. Alberta reported partial data for 1999/00 and 2000/01. Therefore caution should be made when making comparisons between 1998/99 to 2001/02.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, Nunavut data is not available prior to 1999.

5. The total for Canada excludes British Columbia for 1997/98; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for 1999/00 and 2000/01; and Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Nunavut for 2001/02.

6. Due to the unavailability of data Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

7. Due to the unavailability of data Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Nunavut have been excluded.

Source: Alternative Measures Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Rate per 10,000 Youth Population for Youth in Alternative Measures by Jurisdiction, 1997/98 to 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Rate per 10,000 youth population					% change 2000/01 to 2001/02	% change 1997/98 to 2001/02
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02		
Newfoundland and Labrador	150	101	120	115	110	-4	-26
Prince Edward Island	153	155	103	86	138	61	-10
Nova Scotia	155	134	...	...	...	...	...
New Brunswick	115	117	...	...	98	...	-15
Quebec	167	165	167	169	172	2	3
Ontario	81	66	66	59	57	-5	-30
Manitoba	201	155	190	153	166	9	-17
Saskatchewan ¹	179	186	147	242	251	3	40
Alberta ²	359	384	176	183	223	...	-38
British Columbia	...	63	...	...	...	...	...
Yukon	168	140	148	168	235	40	40
Northwest Territories ³	312	150	...	...	288	...	...
Nunavut ⁴	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total⁵	134	135	112	111	126	1⁶	-19⁷

... not applicable

1. Due to data fluctuations for alternative measures cases in Saskatchewan, caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2000/01 data and previous years data because of changes in their data collection procedures.

2. Alberta reported partial data for 1999/00 and 2000/01. Therefore caution should be made when making comparisons between 1998/99 to 2001/02.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, Nunavut data is not available prior to 1999.

5. The rate for Canada excludes British Columbia for 1997/98; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for 1999/00 and 2000/01; and Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Nunavut for 2001/02.

6. Due to the unavailability of data Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

7. Due to the unavailability of data Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Nunavut have been excluded.

Source: Alternative Measures Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Divisions, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Releases from Remand by Time Served and Jurisdiction, 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Remand by Time Served (%)				
	Total (N)	1 week or less	> 1 week to 1 month	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year or greater
Total¹	13,172	50	30	19	1
Newfoundland and Labrador	229	44	39	15	1
Prince Edward Island	54	48	44	7	0
Nova Scotia	350	77	16	7	0
New Brunswick	..	...	...	...	...
Quebec	..	...	...	...	...
Ontario	6,670	46	30	21	1
Manitoba	1,669	51	23	25	1
Saskatchewan	..	...	...	...	...
Alberta	2,363	54	32	14	0
British Columbia	1,674	55	32	13	0
Yukon	42	52	40	7	0
Northwest Territories	36	8	25	67	0
Nunavut	85	21	36	35	7

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... n'ayant pas lieu de figurer

1. Due to the unavailability of data, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12-15 year olds and Saskatchewan have been excluded.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Duration of Remand for Youth, 1997/98 to 2001/02

		Duration of Remand							
Year	Total	1 week or less		> 1 week to 1 month		> 1 to 6 months		> 6 months to more than 2 years	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total Releases									
1997/98 ¹	14,068	7,851	56	3,929	28	2,179	15	109	0.8
1998/99 ²	12,870	6,761	53	3,756	29	2,242	17	111	0.9
1999/00 ³	10,422	5,401	52	3,238	31	1,718	16	65	0.6
2000/01 ⁴	13,475	7,069	52	3,933	29	2,356	17	117	0.9
2001/02 ⁵	13,172	6,576	50	3,925	30	2,493	19	178	1.4

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

1. Due to the unavailability of data Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

2. Due to the unavailability of data Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut have been excluded.

3. Due to the unavailability of data New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut have been excluded.

4. Due to the unavailability of data Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan have been excluded.

5. Due to the unavailability of data New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year-olds and Saskatchewan have been excluded.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13

Releases from Secure and Open Custody by Time Served and Jurisdiction, 2001/02

Jurisdiction	Durations by Time Served							
	Secure custody (%)				Open custody (%)			
	Total (N)	1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater	Total (N)	1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater
Total	5,925	54	37	9	6,719	44	47	9
Newfoundland and Labrador	153	52	39	9	141	28	57	16
Prince Edward Island	35	37	43	20	40	28	73	0
Nova Scotia	8	13	50	38	195	38	52	10
New Brunswick	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Quebec	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Ontario	4,074	54	37	9	4,535	47	45	9
Manitoba	170	27	56	16	289	26	61	13
Saskatchewan	144	..	..	..	196	...	...	...
Alberta	885	65	29	6	534	31	59	10
British Columbia	370	56	38	6	637	59	36	6
Yukon	20	65	30	5	16	6	75	19
Northwest Territories	35	11	60	29	79	15	62	23
Nunavut	31	6	52	42	57	23	51	26

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for any specific reference period

... not applicable

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 14

Percentage of Admissions to Probation by Sentence Length, 1997/98 to 2001/02

Admissions by sentence length	Year				
	1997/98 ¹	1998/99 ¹	1999/00 ²	2000/01 ³	2001/02 ³
Total	29,256	27,833	24,989	26,238	26,965
6 months or less	18	17	16	14	14
More than 6 months to 1 year	51	51	54	45	53
More than 1 year to 2 years	27	26	27	36	31
Greater than 2 years	4	6	2	6	3

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

1. Due to the unavailability of data Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories have been excluded.

2. Due to the unavailability of data New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

3. Due to the unavailability of data New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Hate Crime in Canada

by Warren Silver, Karen Mihorean and Andrea Taylor-Butts

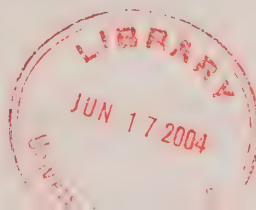
Highlights

- According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), Canadians indicated that about 4% (273,000) of all self-reported criminal victimization incidents were believed by the victims to be motivated by hate.
- Data collected in the 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey suggest that 5% of Canadians are worried or very worried about becoming the victim of a crime because of their race, ethnicity, language and/or religion. This figure increases to 11% when only visible minorities are considered.
- Of the 928 hate crime incidents recorded in a pilot survey of 12 major police forces in Canada in 2001 and 2002, the majority were motivated by race/ethnicity (57%), followed by religion (43%) and sexual orientation (10%).
- Of those hate crimes reported to police, the majority involved offences against the person (52%) followed by property offences (31%) and other offences (17%), such as hate propaganda.
- One quarter of the hate crime incidents reported by the police services participating in the pilot survey were anti-Semitic in nature involving Jewish people or institutions.
- Incidents motivated by the victim's sexual orientation were the most likely to be violent in nature (65%). Six-in-ten of these incidents involved assault (63%) followed by uttering threats (21%).
- About one-in-five victims of violent hate crime had a weapon used against them. Fewer than one-in-ten of these victims had a knife or cutting instrument used against them, and less than 1% involved a firearm. One quarter of victims of a violent crime suffered an injury. Gays and Lesbians were almost twice as likely as hate crime victims in general to suffer an injury.
- The pilot survey found that in cases where the relationship of the accused to the victim was identified, the majority of victims did not know their perpetrator (83%). A further 15% of victims stated that the accused was a casual acquaintance or a business relationship.
- The pilot survey data indicate that there was a significant, but short lived impact on the number of hate crimes reported to police following the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States. Fifteen percent of the hate crime incidents recorded by police following this event were associated with the terrorist attacks, three quarters of these incidents occurring within the two months following the attack.



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Introduction

Canada is becoming an increasingly diverse population. The proportion of Canadians who are foreign born or visible minority has been increasing over the past decades. According to the most recent Census, about 13% of the Canadian population identifies itself as a visible minority. Since 1991 the visible minority population has grown almost six times faster than the total Canadian population.

With the increase in multi-ethnic and diverse populations comes not only a rich mosaic of cultures, religions, and languages, but also the potential for an increase in social tensions which in its most serious expression can lead to hate-motivated crime. Hate crimes do not only affect their immediate victim, but render fear to the entire group to which the victim belongs.

Canada's increasingly diverse population coupled with the events of September 11th, 2001 have brought heightened attention to crimes motivated by hate and have become both a growing public and policy concern.

Through funding from the government's Policy Research Initiative, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) undertook a four-year hate crime study. The objective of the study was to enhance our understanding of hate crime in Canada and to assess the feasibility of collecting national police-reported hate crime statistics through a pilot survey.

This Juristat aims to address our understanding of the nature and extent of hate crime in Canada and presents the results of the Hate Crime Pilot Survey (HCPS) undertaken by the CCJS in collaboration with 12 major police forces¹ across the country. This paper also draws on other available data sources in order to provide contextual information on hate crime, and to attempt to quantify its occurrence.

Canada – A changing population

The ideal of multiculturalism and diversity in Canada includes the survival of ethnic origin groups and their cultures, and tolerance towards diversity (Weinfeld 1994). Yet studies have shown that 'comfort levels' expressed towards visible minority and foreign-born Canadians are less than towards those who are not a visible minority and who are Canadian born (Angus Reid Group 1991; Berry and Kalin 1995). This is particularly concerning, given the fact that according to the 2001 Census, there is a growing trend for immigrants to arrive to Canada from countries that hold markedly different cultural practices than do those who are Canadian born.

To understand hate crime in the context of the increasing diversity of the Canadian population, the following section provides Census data on immigrants, visible minorities, language, religious groups, Aboriginal groups, and sexual orientation. These data illustrate Canada's changing and increasingly diverse population.

Immigration

According to the 2001 Census, Canadians listed more than 200 ethnic origins. During the first half of the previous century, approximately nine-in-ten immigrants emigrated from European countries. In the 1960s, changes to Canadian immigration policy eliminated national origin as a screening criterion. Subsequently, immigration from different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Asia and the Middle East, began to increase appreciably. Between 1991 and 2001 about 58% of foreign-born Canadians came from Asian and Middle Eastern countries and only one-in-five immigrated from Europe. A further 11% arrived from the Caribbean and Central and South America, 8% from Africa and 3% from the United States (Statistics Canada 2003 – Social Trends).

1. The 12 participating police services include Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). Data collected from these police services represent approximately 43% of the national volume of crime but are not nationally representative.

Text Box 1 – Definitions

Visible minorities: Defined by the Employment Equity Act as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”.

Religion: The Census data provided on religion reflect the respondents' report of specific denomination or group, even if not a practising member of their denomination or group. Consequently, these data indicate only religious affiliation. Other data sources, principally Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, are available as measures of attendance at religious services.

Aboriginal Population: There are different ways to represent the Aboriginal population. The Aboriginal identity population from the 2001 Census is used to obtain information for those who identified with one or more Aboriginal groups (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit). The Census also provides information on those reporting at least one Aboriginal origin or ancestry. Depending on the application, data using either concept may be appropriate for defining the Aboriginal population. This report uses the Aboriginal identity concept to define the Aboriginal population.

Sexual Orientation: Sexual orientation refers to how a person perceives and defines their sexuality, which is whether he or she considers himself or herself to be heterosexual, homosexual (Gay or Lesbian) or bisexual. National data on sexual orientation will be available for the first time through Statistics Canada's General Social Survey in 2005.

As detailed below, “the continued arrival of individuals from these countries has had, and will continue to have, profound implications to the racial, cultural and linguistic composition of Canadian society” (Smith, 2000).

Visible Minorities in Canada

Given the changes in immigration patterns to Canada in recent decades, the 2001 Census found that 13.4% of Canadians identified themselves as a member of a visible minority. Over the last decade, Canada's visible minority population has grown nearly six times faster than the total population. Between 1991 and 2001, the total population of Canada increased by 10%, while the visible minority population grew by 58% (Statistics Canada, 2003). If recent immigration trends continue, the visible minority population will continue to grow rapidly over the next couple of decades. Projections indicate that by 2016, visible minorities will account for one-fifth of Canada's population (Statistics Canada 2003(a)).

The three largest visible minority groups, Chinese, South Asian and Blacks accounted for two-thirds of the visible minority population in 2001. In 2001, the Chinese population surpassed one million people. Accounting for 3.5% of the total population, Chinese individuals represented 26% of the visible minority population. South Asians represented 3.1% of the total population and 23% of the visible minority population, while Blacks represented 2.2% of the total population and 17% of the visible minority population. The remaining third are Filipinos, Arabs and West Asians, Latin Americans, Southeast Asians, Koreans and Japanese.

Language

With immigration, multilingualism is growing in Canada. The number of allophones, individuals whose mother tongue is neither French nor English increased to 18% of the population in 2001, up from 15.3% in 1991.

More than 100 different languages were reported as mother tongues in 1991 and again in the 2001 Census. Among them, Asian and Middle Eastern language groups recorded the largest gains between 1991 and 2001.

Religion

Canada has evolved from a predominantly Christian country to a rich mosaic of religions. Recent increases in immigration from non-European countries have contributed to a more diverse religious profile (Statistics Canada 2003(b)).

The number of Canadians who reported religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism has increased substantially. Religious groups from Asia and the Middle East experienced the largest growth. Among these groups, Muslims recorded the largest increase, more than doubling from 253,300 in 1991 to 579,600 in 2001, representing 2% of the total population in 2001. The number of people who identified themselves as Hindu increased 89% to 297,200. Those who identified themselves as Sikh also rose 89% to 278,400, while the number of Buddhists increased 84% to about 300,300. Each of these religious groups represented nearly 1% of the total population (Statistics Canada 2003(b)).

The number of Canadians who identified themselves as Jewish increased slightly (3.7%) between 1991(318,185) and 2001(329,995), and represented about 1% of the total Canadian population.

The Aboriginal Population

The population reporting an Aboriginal identity grew 22.2% from 1996 to 2001 to 3.3% of the population. In contrast, the non-Aboriginal population grew only 3.4%. This growth can be partially attributed to a high birth rate as well as increased awareness of Aboriginal roots and more complete enumerating on reserves (Statistics Canada 2002(a)).

According to Census data, the Aboriginal population of Canada is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001 the median age² of Canada's Aboriginal population (24.7 years) was 13 years lower than the non-Aboriginal population (37.7 years).

In addition, Census data show a growing number of the Aboriginal population residing in cities. Almost one half (49%) of the population who identified as Aboriginal live in urban areas.

Sexual Orientation

The 2001 Census was the first to ask questions about same-sex common-law partnerships. This most recent Census data preceded the 2002 court rulings in Ontario and British Columbia allowing same sex marriage. The data on same-sex partnerships should not be interpreted as an estimate of the number of Gays and Lesbians in Canada, some of whom may be living alone or with parents or friends (Statistics Canada 2002(b)). However, the data indicate that of all couples, 0.5% or 34,200 were same-sex common law partnerships.

2. The median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older and one half is younger.

Text Box 2 – Defining hate crime in Canada

In Canada, the definition of hate crime has evolved out of the *Criminal Code* sections for Hate Propaganda and the Purpose and Principles of Sentencing. Offences related to hate propaganda are different from hate crimes, both in the nature of the act and the type of groups identified. Specifically, hate propaganda, as set out in sections 318 and 319 of the *Criminal Code*, refers to advocating genocide, public incitement of hatred, or the willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group, including those distinguished by color, race, religion, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.³

In 1996, in response to a growing concern about hate crimes in Canada, section 718.2 was amended to include sentencing enhancement principles that allowed courts to take into consideration whether the offence was 'motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor.' With this sentencing amendment courts can now regard hate motivation as an aggravating circumstance.

Text Box 3 – Measuring hate crime

There are two methods for collecting data on hate crime, victimization surveys and police reported surveys. Victimization surveys gather information from a sample of the population. Survey respondents are asked whether they felt that they had been the victim of a crime within a given period preceding the survey and whether they believed the incident was motivated by hate. If they indicate that it was hate motivated, they are asked to specify the motive.

There are a number of benefits to conducting victimization surveys, including the measurement of both police reported and unreported incidents, the risk of victimization, and impact and consequences of crime on Canadians. Despite these benefits, there are limitations to these surveys. First, victimization surveys only measure certain types of crimes and do not capture information on homicides or offences against businesses or institutions. Therefore, offences committed against institutions such as synagogues or mosques are excluded. Second, small sample sizes of certain sub-populations limits the analysis of how victimization may affect certain groups differently. Third, victimization surveys often do not include children, therefore excluding hate crimes committed against very young age cohorts (i.e. less than 15 years of age). Fourth, victimization surveys rely on the perceptions of the respondents. Consequently, there is no way of checking the accuracy of the incidents reported. Finally, there may be hesitation to report something as personal as a hate crime, making hate crimes vulnerable to under-reporting within a victimization survey.

Given the limitations associated with victimization surveys, it is important to also include police reported statistics in the quantification of hate motivated crime. However, in the absence of national standards for the collection of hate crime statistics, police services have not typically identified hate motivated crime in a systematic way across Canada; thereby reducing the availability of national police reported data on hate motivated crimes.

In addition, there are various issues that contribute to the difficulty in measuring police reported crime in general, and hate crimes in particular. Generally in order for an incident to be classified as a "crime", the victim must first identify the incident as a crime, and report it to the police. An investigation must ensue and a determination made that the incident is substantiated or "founded".⁴ At each stage, a decision could be made that might result in the incident being excluded from official police statistics (Trainor 2001). There are many reasons a victim may choose not to report a criminal victimization to the police, including the stigma often attached to being a victim. In cases of hate crimes, similar to victim surveys, this may be further compounded by the victim's hesitation to identify themselves as a targeted group.

The underlying determination of the motivation for the crime is also critical to the classification of an incident as a hate motivated crime by the police. While there is general consensus that in order for a crime to be deemed a hate crime it must be motivated by hate, there is a question as to whether it must be wholly or partially motivated by hate. Differences in the approach the police may take to classify an incident as hate motivated can have a significant impact on the number of reported hate crimes. For example, a case of an assault where the assailant uttered a racial slur may be recorded simply as an assault by one police service and an assault motivated by hate by another.

Victimization survey reports of hate crime

General Social Survey on Victimization

In 1999, the General Social Survey (GSS)⁵ interviewed approximately 26,000 people 15 years of age and older, living in the 10 provinces, about their experiences of victimization and their perceptions of crime. For the first time the GSS asked questions related to hate crime, including whether respondents believed the crime committed against them could be considered a hate crime and what they believed to be the motivation (see Text Box 4).

Text Box 4 – Measuring hate crime in the GSS

The 1999 GSS asked respondents whether they felt they had been a victim of any of the following crimes: sexual assault, assault, break and enter, theft of personal property, theft of household property, motor vehicle/parts theft, and vandalism. Respondents who indicated that they had been a victim were then asked whether they believed the crime committed against them could be considered a hate crime.

There is a growing concern in Canada about hate crimes. By this I mean crimes motivated by the offender's hatred of a person's sex, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture or language.

The question then followed:

Do you believe that this incident committed against you could be considered a hate crime?

If the person answered yes, a subsequent question was asked:

Was this because of the person's hatred of your... Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Age, Disability, Culture, Language, Other (specify).

Consistent with other studies, results of the GSS showed that during the 12 months preceding the survey about 4% of criminal incidents (273,000 incidents) were considered by victims to be motivated by hate.⁶ When asked to specify the basis for the hate crime, race/ethnicity was reported in 43% of the incidents.⁷ Due to small numbers, many of the hate crime categories such as age, sexual orientation, and religion were collapsed into the "other" category. In this study, "other" made up 37%, followed by culture and sex at 18% each.

About three-quarters (77%) of hate crimes recorded in the GSS were personal offences⁸ compared to 58% of non-hate related incidents. Moreover, almost half of all hate crime incidents were assaults (49%), compared to 18% of all victimization incidents reported in the GSS. This research supports the findings of

3. On September 18, 2003 the parliament of Canada with unanimous support from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police voted to amend the *Criminal Code* to include sexual orientation as an identifiable characteristic for protection of hate crime under the Hate Propaganda section of the *Criminal Code* 318. The amendment will add Gays and Lesbians to a list of other groups protected by hate crime legislation.

4. In 1999, approximately 5% of incidents reported to the police were deemed unfounded.

5. The GSS is an annual survey conducted by Statistics Canada. Each year it focuses on different social topics. The victimization cycle has been conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999.

6. For more information on hate crime measured through the 1999 General Social Survey see Janhevich, *Hate Crime in Canada: An Overview of Issues and Data Sources*, 2001.

7. Respondents could identify more than one motivating factor.

8. The personal offences category of the GSS includes assault, theft of personal property, robbery and sexual assault.

other studies that hate crimes more often involve offences against the person than other offences. Other research has also shown that hate crimes compared to non-hate related crimes are more likely to involve excessive violence and greater psychological trauma to the victim (Levin 1992-93; Levin and McDevitt 1993; Herek and Berrill 1992).

Results from police reported data and victim surveys consistently show that for the majority of violent crimes, the victim is known to the offender. However the GSS results indicate that in almost half of all cases (46%) the perpetrator was unknown to the victim. In cases where the offender was known to the victim, it was most often an acquaintance or someone known only by sight.

The 1999 GSS showed little difference in the overall rates of hate crime victimization by sex, but revealed notable distinctions by age and visible minority status. Younger individuals were more frequently the victims of hate crime than were older individuals (Table 1). In 1999, those aged 15 to 24 were twice as likely to report having experienced a hate crime as those aged 25 to 34 (22 per 1,000 versus 11 per 1,000 population). The reported rate of hate crime victimization was almost three times greater for visible minorities compared to non-visible minorities. Among visible minorities, hate crime victimization rates were 19 per 1,000 population 15 years of age and older and 7 per 1,000 for non visible minorities.

Previous studies have suggested that hate crimes are under-reported to the police (Levin and McDevitt 1993). While the GSS supports this notion, finding that less than one half of hate crime victimizations were brought to the attention of the police (45%), they were more likely to be reported than non-hate crimes (37%). The difference in reporting rates may be due in part to the fact that in almost one-half of all hate crime incidents the perpetrator was a stranger, and victims are more likely to report to police if the offender is not known. In addition, a greater proportion of hate crimes are violent in nature and the seriousness of an offence influences whether the victim reports their victimization to the police (Janhevich 2001).

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS)

Ethno-cultural⁹ Hate Crime Victimization

As a part of the module on interaction with others, the EDS investigated people's experiences with criminal victimization in the past five years and asked victims specifically if they believed the offence was motivated by hatred (Text Box 5). In 2002, about 9% of Canadians who indicated that they had been criminally victimized within the past five years believed that the offence committed against them could be considered a hate crime. Among those identifying themselves as the possible victims of a hate crime, about 39% believed that the offence was motivated by the offender's hatred of their ethnicity, race, language and/or religion. Race or skin colour was the most frequently mentioned reason among these ethno-cultural characteristics (Figure 1).

Not unlike the results of the GSS, the EDS found that visible minorities were over-represented among hate crime victims.¹⁰ While just over 13% of all Canadians were a visible minority,

Text Box 5 –Measuring Hate Crime through the Ethnic Diversity Survey

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS) examines Canada's ethno-cultural mosaic by providing information on the various ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the country's population. The survey covers a number of topics including ethnic and cultural ancestry, ethnic identity, knowledge of languages, social networks, interaction with others and civic participation. The survey was conducted in 2002 and approximately 42,500 people, aged 15 years and older were interviewed.

The following question on criminal victimization was posed to all EDS respondents:

Crimes include offences such as assault, fraud, robbery and vandalism and may occur for various reasons. In the past 5 years or since your arrival in Canada, have any crimes been committed against you in Canada?

Those who reported that they had been the victim of a crime in the last five years were subsequently asked:

Did any of these crimes occur in the past 12 months?

Individuals who had had a crime committed against them in the past five years were then asked a follow-up questions regarding hate crime. To ensure the respondents fully understood the questions, a pre-amble explaining hate crime was included.

In Canada hate crimes are legally defined as crimes motivated by the offender's bias, prejudice or hatred based on the victim's race, nationality or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor.

Do you believe that any of the crimes committed against you in Canada in the past 5 years or since you arrived in Canada could be considered a hate crime?

Those who believed that they had been the victim of a hate crime were then asked the following:

Do you believe that the crime was committed against you because of an offender's hatred of:

*your ethnicity or culture?
your race or skin colour?
your language or accent?
your religion?
or for some other reason?*

All EDS participants were also questioned regarding their concerns about becoming the victim of hate crime because of their ethnicity, race, language and/or religion.

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not worried at all and 5 is very worried, how worried are you about becoming the victim of a crime in Canada because of someone's hatred of your ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion?

Source: Statistics Canada. *Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.*

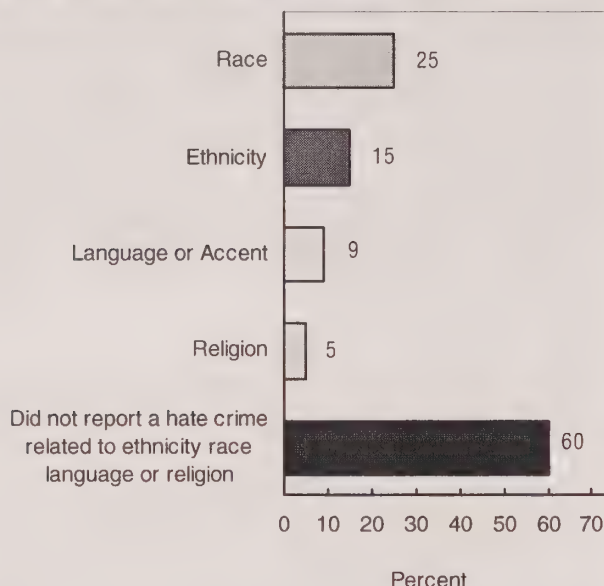
almost 19% of individuals who indicated that they had been the victim of a hate crime were a visible minority. Compared to those who were not visible minorities, visible minority individuals were one and a half times more likely to have suffered a hate crime (13 per 1,000 population and 20 per 1,000 population, respectively).

9. The Ethnic Diversity Survey did not distinguish hate crimes motivated by disability, sexual orientation, sex, or age since the focus of the survey was on people's ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

10. Due to sample size the EDS can not report hate crime results by the respondent's race, ethnicity or country of origin.

Figure 1

Among the ethno-cultural reasons for hate crime, race was mentioned most often



Note: Totals will not add up to 100% because of multiple responses per respondent. Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.
Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Visible minority men (26 per 1,000 population) experienced hate crime at more than double the rate of men who are not a visible minority (12 per 1,000 population). And while there was almost no difference in the rate of hate crime victimization between men and women in general, visible minority men were more than one and a half times more likely than their female counterparts to have been the victim of a hate crime (26 per 1,000 compared with 15 per 1,000 population) (Table 2).

Unlike differences between visible minorities and those who were not visible minorities, there was no statistically significant difference between rates of hate crime victimization between immigrants and the Canadian-born population (13 per 1,000 versus 15 per 1,000 populations). However, if visible minority status is also taken into account, the findings indicate that visible minority immigrants (18 per 1,000 population) were more than twice as likely as immigrants who were not a visible minority (8 per 1,000 population) to have been a victim of a hate crime. They were also 29% more likely than Canadian-born individuals who were not visible minorities (14 per 1,000 population) to have experienced this type of crime (Table 2). Overall, Canadian-born visible minorities had the highest hate crime victimization rate, at 31 per 1,000 population.

For the five years prior to the EDS, adults aged 35 to 44 years reported the highest hate crime victimization rates (22 per 1,000 population), followed by younger adults aged 25-34 (18 per 1,000 population) and youths aged 15-24 (18 per 1,000 population) (Table 2).

Fear of Ethno-cultural Hate Crime

The Ethnic Diversity Survey also measures the degree to which Canadians worry about becoming the victim of an ethno-culturally motivated hate crime (Text Box 5). Overall, the majority of Canadians 15 years of age and older expressed little or no concern about becoming the victim of a crime because of their ethnicity, race, language and/or religion (87%), and only 5% of Canadians said that they were worried or very worried about becoming the victim of an ethno-cultural hate crime. However, some groups within the general population did express great concern about being victimized (Table 3).¹¹

For example, individuals who reported having previously experienced any kind of hate crimes were about four times more likely to be worried about suffering subsequent hate crime victimizations than those who had not been victimized. About 19% of past hate crime victims said that they were worried or very worried, compared to 4% of individuals who had been the victim of a crime but not a hate crime, and 5% of those who had not experienced any crimes in the last five years (Table 3).

As well, compared to those who were not visible minorities, visible minorities in Canada displayed greater concern over the possibility of being the target of a hate crime. Even though for the vast majority of visible minorities this prospect was not of great concern, visible minorities were nearly three times more likely than those who are not a visible minority to be worried about hate crime victimization that targets ethnicity, race, language and/or religion (11% versus 4%) (Table 3). Levels of worry were highest among visible minority females (12%).

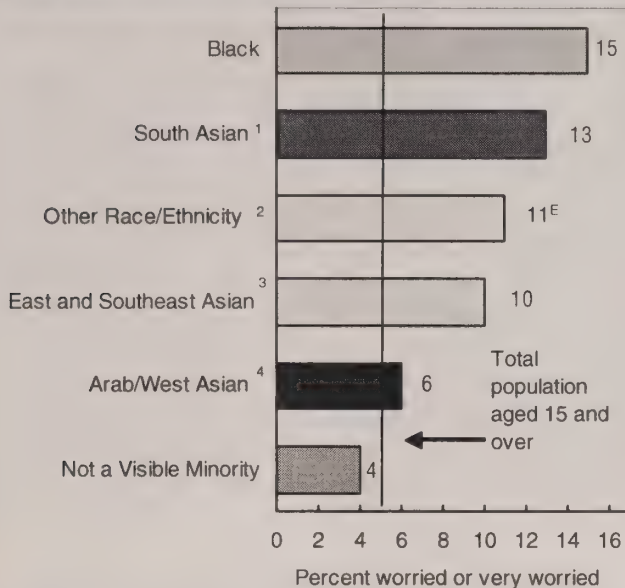
Looking at responses to the fear of hate crime question among people from various visible minority groups¹², Black (15%), South Asian (13%) and East and Southeast Asian (10%) individuals had the highest proportions of people reporting that they were worried or very worried about experiencing an ethno-culturally motivated hate crime¹³ (Figure 2).

Among individuals from various religious groups, people of Hindu (19%), Jewish (11%) and Muslim (10%) faiths had the largest representations among those who were most worried about ethno-cultural hate crime¹⁴ (Figure 3).

11. The remaining 8% of Canadians rated their level of worry as '3'. For this item, survey participants were asked to respond using a five point scale, where 1 represents 'not worried at all' and 5 represent 'very worried'. For the purposes of analysis, responses of '1' or '2' were collapsed into one category, and similarly, responses of '4' and '5' were combined. Ratings of '3' remained as such.
12. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they were worried about becoming the victim of an ethno-culturally based hate crime, but were not asked to identify the specific reason(s) for their concern, for example, their race/skin colour, ethnicity/culture, language/accents, or religion. Thus, their concern about becoming the victim of a hate crime could potentially be founded on any or all of these characteristics.
13. Except for differences between Blacks and Arab/West Asians, differences among visible minority groups are not statistically significant. Differences between each of the visible minority groups and those who are not a visible minority are statistically significant.
14. Differences between levels of worry for Hindu, Jewish and Muslim groups were not statistically significant. Differences between each of these three groups and those of other religious affiliations (Catholic, Protestant and other Christians) or of no religious affiliation were statistically significant.

Figure 2

Blacks most worried among visible minority groups about being targeted for an ethno-cultural hate crime



^E Use with caution

Except for differences between Blacks and Arab/West Asians, differences among visible minority groups are not statistically significant. Differences between each of the visible minority groups and those who are not a visible minority are statistically significant.

1. South Asian includes East Indians, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.

2. Other Race/Ethnicity includes Latin American and visible minorities not included elsewhere.

3. East and Southeast Asian includes Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese.

4. Arab/West Asian includes Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis.

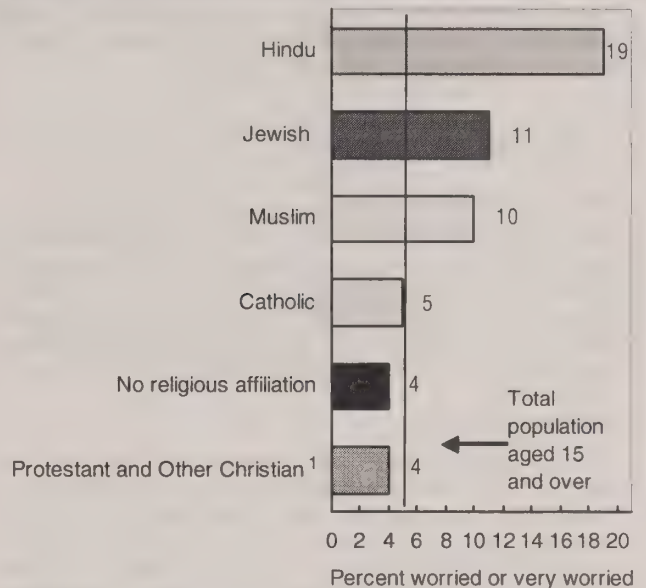
Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Findings from the EDS also indicated that immigrants to Canada were more worried than native born Canadians about hate crime targeting race, ethnicity, language and/or religion. About 9% of immigrants, including both landed immigrants and non-permanent residents, reported that they were worried or very worried about these types of hate crimes. Less than half as many Canadian-born (4%) shared this concern (Table 3).

However, there are differences between recent and non-recent arriving immigrants. For those immigrating to Canada prior to 1971, 7% indicated that they were worried or very worried about ethno-cultural hate crime victimization. In comparison, 10% of individuals immigrating from 1971 to 2001 were worried or very worried. This difference can be attributed in large part to changes in source countries for immigration. As indicated earlier, before 1971, the majority of the immigrant population came from European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. However, with changes to Canadian immigration policy, the past three decades have witnessed a growing proportion of the immigrant population coming from different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Asia and the Middle East. Thus, given their countries of origin, immigrants

Figure 3

Individuals of Hindu faith most worried about ethno-cultural hate crime



Differences between levels of worry for Hindu, Jewish and Muslim groups were not statistically significant. Differences between each of these three groups and those of other religious affiliations or of no religious affiliation were statistically significant.

1. Protestant and Other Christian includes Christian Orthodox and Christian not elsewhere included.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

arriving in Canada during earlier decades tend not to be visible minorities, whereas more recent immigrants are more likely to be visible minorities. In fact by 2001, nearly half (48%) of all immigrants arriving in Canada were visible minorities.

According to the EDS concerns over becoming the victim of a hate crime because of one's race, ethnicity, language and/or religion were twice as great among immigrants who were also members of a visible minority than those who were not a visible minority (12% versus 6%) (Table 3). Visible minority immigrants also tended to be more worried about ethno-culturally based hate crimes than native born visible minorities (12% versus 9%) (Table 3).

Similar to the findings of the GSS and other victimization surveys, which have found that women tend to be more fearful of crime than men (Besserer and Trainor 2000), there was a small, but statistically significant difference between men and women and the extent to which they were worried about experiencing an ethno-culturally motivated hate crime. While 6% of women indicated that they were worried or very worried about encountering this type of hate crime, a smaller proportion of men (4%) felt the same (Table 3).

Differences by age group were minimal. Between 5% and 6% of individuals aged 25 years and over reported being worried or very worried about hate crime victimization targeting their ethnicity, race, language and/or religion. Younger individuals were slightly less likely to express concern (3%) (Table 3). These findings are not unlike those of the 1999 GSS, which indicated that fear of crime was relatively consistent across all age groups (Besserer and Trainor 2001).

Police-reported data

Hate Crime Pilot Survey

In response to the need to collect police reported statistics in a systematic way, the CCJS in collaboration with 12 major police forces across the country conducted a pilot study on hate crime in Canada. The objectives of this study were to enhance the understanding of hate crime, and to assess the feasibility of standardizing data collection of police-reported hate crime.

Defining the Study

The pilot survey collected data on hate crimes that have been reported to the police and subsequently recorded as hate crimes. Twelve major police forces participated in the study, including Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP.¹⁵ Combined, these police services represent approximately 43% of the national volume of crime in Canada. Although each of these police forces was collecting information on hate crimes, information was not gathered in any uniform or standardized format.

The survey collected information on criminal and non-criminal events, the characteristics of the incident, the victim and the accused, as well as the motivation for the hate crime, including race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, language, sex, age, or other.

Survey Results

The pilot survey collected information on all recorded incidents of hate from the 12 participating police departments surveyed for the years 2001 and 2002. The 12 police departments reported a total 1,119 criminal and non-criminal hate incidents of which 928 were classified by the police as criminal hate incidents. The remaining 191 incidents related to non-criminal incidents such as arguments, racial, religious and homophobic insults and other non-criminal incidents which nevertheless had a hate component. These non-criminal incidents are not included in this analysis.

Incident Characteristics

The majority of the 928 hate crime incidents recorded by the 12 participating police forces were offences against the person (52%), followed by property offences (31%). The remaining hate crimes were coded as "other" violations (17%) such as hate propaganda. The most common types of hate crime violations involved mischief (29%)¹⁶, assault (25%)¹⁷, uttering threats (20%), and hate propaganda (13%) (Table 4).

Text box 6 – Understanding differences between victim and police-reported data

Statistics derived from police-reported surveys and victimization surveys can vary considerably as the number of incidents reported to a victim survey is typically significantly higher than those recorded in police statistics. One of the main reasons for this difference is that a large percentage of criminal victimizations go unreported to the police.

Also, given the sensitive nature of hate crimes, some victims may not want to report an incident to the police for fear of identifying themselves as belonging to a targeted group. Given the anonymity of a telephone survey, they may disclose that an incident was hate motivated. Other victims may report the incident to the police, but withhold that their minority status was the motivating factor of the crime. Still other victims, unless specifically asked or prompted, may not recognize that they were targeted because of a specific characteristic and therefore would not report it to police as such. However, in a victim survey, respondents are provided a definition of hate crime and asked whether they believed the incident committed against them was hate motivated.

Some police services do not collect hate crime information. Other police services may collect hate crime data, but will only indicate that an incident is a hate crime if it is wholly motivated by hate. Therefore, for these police services, incidents that are partially motivated by hate would be excluded from hate crime statistics (e.g. a case of a break and enter in which the house is vandalized and a swastika is spray painted on the wall may be recorded simply as a break and enter not a break and enter that is motivated by hate). Still others may not recognize or code an incident as being hate motivated.

Only 7% of all hate crime incidents included multiple violations. Of these, approximately four-in-ten involved hate propaganda as a secondary violation, followed by uttering threats (22%) and vandalism (16%).

Results indicate that incidents motivated by race/ethnicity accounted for more than half (57%) of all hate crimes, followed by those targeting religion (43%) and sexual orientation (10%)¹⁸ (Figure 4). A further 3% were motivated by language, sex, age or disability. This finding substantiates findings from the 1999 GSS and the EDS that also found race/ethnicity to be the most frequent motivation for hate crimes. In addition, the pilot survey results are consistent with findings from a 1995 study conducted by Justice Canada (Nelson and Kiefl 1995) which found that race/ethnicity, followed by religion and sexual orientation were the most common reasons for hate crime.

While race/ethnicity was the most frequent motive among the 928 police recorded hate crime incidents, the largest single group identified in this study was Jewish people or institutions. One quarter of all hate crime incidents reported by the 12 police departments were anti-Semitic in nature (229 incidents). The second most common group targeted was Blacks (17%), followed by Muslims (11%), South Asians (10%) and Gays and Lesbians (9%) (Figure 5).

15. RCMP data excludes British Columbia.

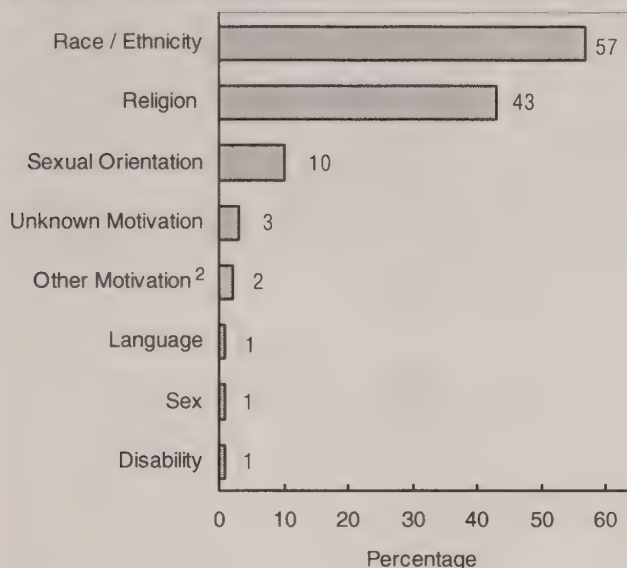
16. Mischief refers to all acts of vandalism.

17. Assault includes simple assault, assault with a weapon or causing bodily injury and aggravated assault.

18. Totals may not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Figure 4

Race/Ethnicity Most Common Target of Hate Crime in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002



Notes: The category Age reported less than 1% and are therefore not included in this figure (see table 5 for greater detail).

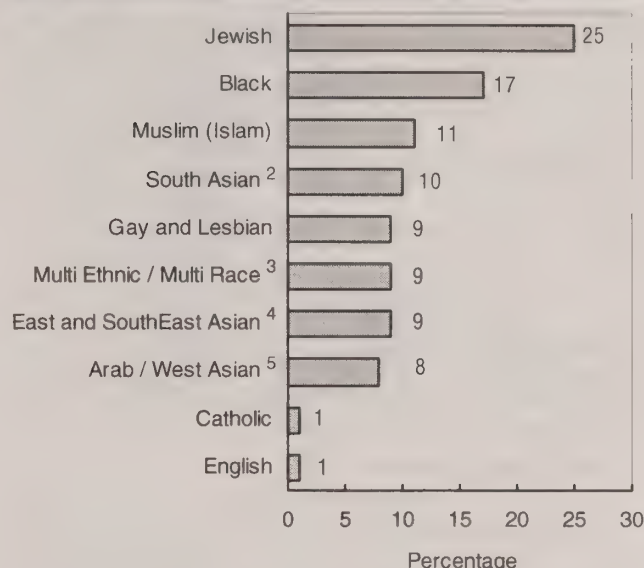
Notes: Totals may not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.
2. 'Other Motivation' refers to other similar characteristics which may be targeted for hate crime and not included in the other categories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Figure 5

Jewish Most Likely Target of Hate Crimes in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002



Notes: Total may not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.
2. South Asian refers to incidents targeting East Indians, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.
3. Multi Race/Multi Ethnicity refers to incident targeting several race/ethnicity categories, these include anti-immigrant incidents and white supremacist incidents.
4. East and Southeast Asian refer to Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean.
5. Arab/West Asian refers to incidents targeting Arabs as well as Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Text Box 7 – Hate Crimes following September 11

Data collection in the pilot survey included the two year period beginning in January 2001 and ending in December 2002. Survey data indicate that there was a significant, but short-lived impact on the number of hate crimes reported to police following the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States. According to the pilot survey 15% of the hate crimes following the attacks (September 11th, 2001 to December 31st, 2002) were associated by police with events of September 11, 2001 and almost three quarters of these incidents occurred within two months following the attack. Looking more closely at the two month period following the attacks, there were three and a half times more hate crimes recorded during these two months than there were during the same two months the following year (232 versus 67).

The majority of hate crime incidents recorded by police as being associated with the events of September 11th were violent in nature (68%), including assault, criminal harassment and uttering threats. Another 23% involved violations against property. Fully 92% of acts against property involved vandalism. The remaining 9% of hate crime incidents associated with September 11th involved 'other' criminal incidents, such as hate propaganda.

Religion and race/ethnicity were almost equally as likely to be the target of these offences (59% versus 57%). Victim groups most commonly associated with the September 11th hate crime incidents were Muslims (30%) and Jewish people (27%), followed by Americans (15%), Arabs/West Asians (13%) and South Asians (13%).

Race / Ethnicity

Among the 528 incidents identified by the police as being motivated by the hatred of a person's race/ethnicity, Blacks were the most likely to be victimized (30%), followed by South Asians (18%), Arabs/West Asians (14%), East and Southeast Asians (9%), and Whites (9%). A further 16% of incidents targeting race/ethnicity were not against a particular group, but directed at multiple races or ethnicities (for example, anti-immigrant) (Figure 6).

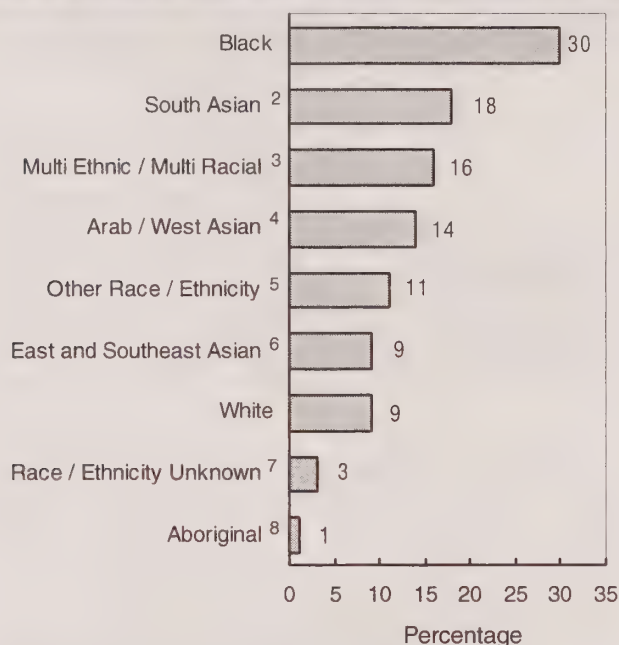
Hate crimes based on race/ethnicity were mostly crimes against the person (53%) (Table 6). These include such violations as assault, uttering threats, criminal harassment and robbery. Crimes against property, which include vandalism, arson, and other property offences, accounted for 27% of racial/ethnic hate crimes. "Other Criminal Violations", including such crimes as hate propaganda, represented 20%.

Religion

In the pilot survey, people or institutions of Jewish faith were the most likely to be victimized among those hate crimes motivated by religion (58%). Muslims were also frequently the target of hate crimes (26%). "Other" religions (e.g. Sikh,

Figure 6

Blacks Most Likely Targeted Among Race Ethnicity Hate Crimes In Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002



Note: Totals may equal more than 100% due to multiple responses.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.
2. South Asian refers to incidents targeting East Indians, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.
3. Multi Race/Multi Ethnicity refers to incidents targeting several race/ethnicity categories, these include anti-immigrant incidents and white supremacist incidents.
4. Arab/West Asian refers to incidents targeting Arabs, Afghans, Iranians, and Iraqis.
5. Other Race/Ethnicity includes Latin American, European and Other groups not previously mentioned.
6. East and Southeast Asian refer to Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean.
7. Race/Ethnicity "Unknown" refers to hate crime incident where it is known that the motive is race/ethnicity, but no specific group is targeted.
8. Aboriginal includes North American Indian, Métis, and Inuit.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Mormon, and Eastern Orthodox) and Catholics made up a very small portion of victims (9% and 3% respectively) (Figure 7).

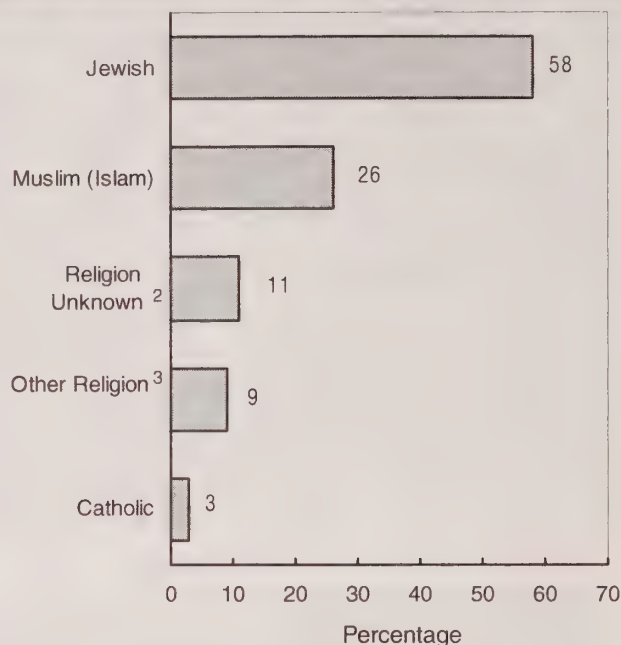
Previous research has found that hate crimes against religious groups are more likely to be acts of vandalism (Nelson and Kiehl 1995). However, according to the pilot survey, victims of anti-religion hate crimes were equally likely to experience a property hate crime as a violent hate crime (38% versus 36%) (Table 6). A further 26% fell under the category "Other Criminal Violations", particularly hate propaganda.

Sexual Orientation

During the 2001 and 2002 reference period, one-in-ten hate crime incidents reported by the 12 participating police forces was motivated by the perpetrator's hatred of the victim's sexual orientation, predominately Gay or Lesbian (93%).

Figure 7

More than One Half of all Religious Hate Crimes are Anti-Jewish in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002



Note: Totals may equal more than 100% due to multiple responses.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.
2. Religion Unknown refers to hate crimes where the motivation is religious, but the specific target is unknown.
3. Other religion refers to Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and other religions not mentioned previously.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Compared to all other groups experiencing hate crime, crimes associated with the victim's sexual orientation are the most likely to be crimes against the person (65%) (Table 6). About six-in-ten of these incidents involved assault (63%) followed by uttering threats (21%). This confirms previous research that suggests that individuals targeted for their sexual orientation are more likely than other hate crime victims to suffer violent crimes (Nelson and Kiehl 1995). Crimes against property represented 30% of hate crimes based on sexual orientation, while "Other Criminal Violations" accounted for 5%.

Precipitating Factors

The police forces participating in the pilot survey were asked to specify the precipitating factors that lead to each hate crime incident. In 81% of incidents police identified a known factor. Of the cases where the precipitating factor for the hate crime was known, the most common was slurs (75%), such as insulting someone by calling them a racial or homophobic epithet, followed by a fight/assault (11%) and "other" (6%). Within the "other" category, 'prejudice' was the most noted.

In cases of hate crimes based on race/ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation, the most frequent precipitating factor was slurs. However, hate crimes based on sexual orientation were

much more likely to be brought on by a fight (17%), than those that were thought to be related to a victim's race/ethnicity (12%) or those based on someone's religion (2%).

Text Box 8 – Cyber Hate Crimes

Very few chargeable suspects of all hate crimes involved the use of the Internet (2%). Slightly less than one half of these incidents had a chargeable suspect, which is not surprising given the anonymity often associated with these types of hate crimes. Where sex was known, the majority were male (86%). Unlike hate crimes in general, Internet-related hate crimes tended to be committed by the young, where the average age of those involved was 22.7 years.

The majority of hate crimes transmitted through the Internet were related to inciting hate propaganda. Overall, almost two thirds of these offences involved promoting hate. The remaining Internet incidents included uttering threats.

Characteristics of Accused

Due to the very nature of certain types of hate crime incidents, it is more difficult to identify a suspect than in others (e.g., graffiti spray painted on a religious building or an anonymous hate message left on an answering machine). According to this survey, in slightly less than one half of all hate crime incidents (48%) there was a chargeable accused identified. Of these incidents, the vast majority involved a single accused (86%).

Overall, there were 537 accused or chargeable suspects with detailed characteristics reported for 520 individuals. Of these, the majority were male (84%). Females made up only one-in-ten hate crime accused, while the sex was not recorded in 5%. Male and female accused were equally likely to have committed a crime targeting someone's race or ethnicity (65% each). However, male accused were more than twice as likely to have committed a hate crime motivated by the victim's sexual orientation than were female accused (15% versus 6% respectively) (Figure 8).

The average age of accused was 29.5 years. This is fairly consistent with the average age of accused in general (28.3 years). There was no age difference between male and female accused.

Very few of those accused of a hate crime in this pilot study had known previous criminal activity. Overall, fewer than one-in-ten accused were involved in previous criminal activity.

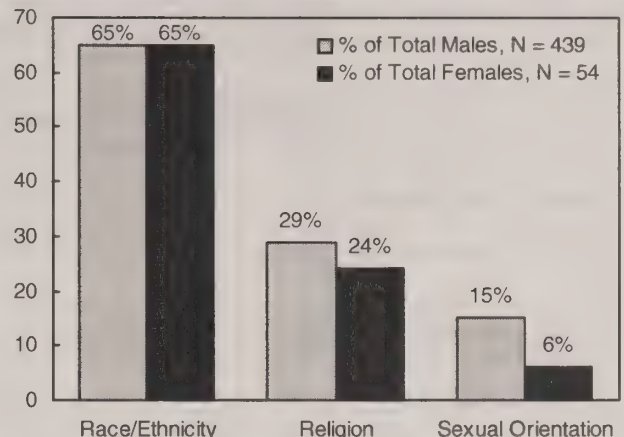
While the majority of those charged with a hate crime by the 12 participating police forces were involved in isolated incidents, 4% had previous hate crime involvement and 3% of the accused were connected to a gang or an extremist group (Text Box 9).

Victim Characteristics

In 86% of the hate crime incidents reported by the 12 participating police forces a victim was identified. Of these incidents, almost all involved a single victim (94%). The average age of a victim of hate crime in this study was 36.6 years. Of the 794 victims, the majority were male (67%). Females made up 31% of victims and in the remaining 2% the gender of the victim was not recorded.

Figure 8

Men and Women who committed Hate Crimes Likely to Commit Race / Ethnicity Hate Crimes in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002



Note: In 27 cases the sex of the accused was not indicated.

Note: Totals may not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Note: Other motives not shown are Language, Sex, Disability, Age, Other Motives and Unknown Motivation.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Text Box 9 – Hate and Extremist Groups

In only 2% of the hate crime incidents recorded by the 12 participating police forces was there a connection to an organized hate or extremist group. According to police reports, these incidents predominantly involved members of white supremacist groups.

In the majority of hate crimes linked to an extremist group there was a chargeable suspect (60%). However, this figure represents only 4% of all accused. Similar to hate crimes in general, males are much more likely than females to be affiliated with an extremist group (80% versus 5%).¹⁹ Individuals involved with these groups also appear to be younger than the average age of hate crime accused in general. For example, while the average age of all accused in this study was 29.5 years, the average age of accused with extremist group connections was 23.6.

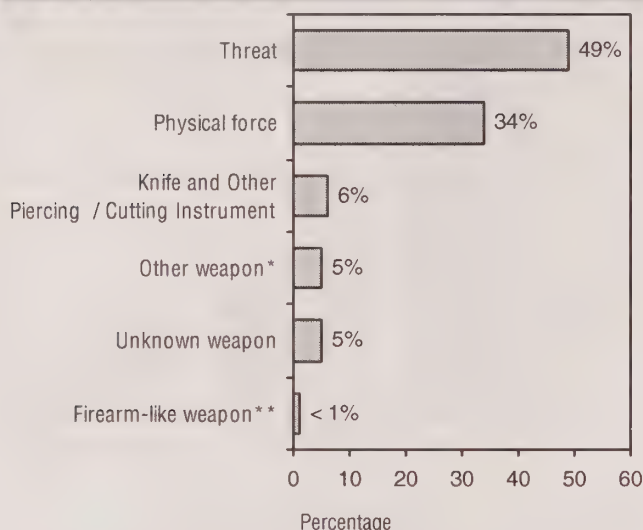
The serious nature of hate crimes

In order to assess the seriousness of violent hate crime incidents, police were asked to indicate whether force, including the threat of force or a weapon was used against the victim. In about 83% of violent incidents where a victim was identified, physical force or the threat of force was used (34% and 49% respectively). In about 17% was some type of weapon present. Of these, fewer than one-in-ten violent incidents where a victim was identified involved the use of a knife or cutting instrument. In less than 1% was a firearm-like weapon present (Figure 9).

19. For 3 accused the sex of the accused was not recorded.

Figure 9

Victims of Violent Hate Crimes Most Likely to Encounter Threats and Physical Force, 2001-2002¹



* Other weapon includes: Club, blunt instrument, and explosives.

** Firearm-like weapon includes any barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces including, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Overall, one quarter of victims of a violent crime in the pilot survey suffered an injury as a result of the hate crime incident; many of which were minor in nature (45%).²⁰ Only 7% of victims suffered major injuries, of which two incidents resulted in death.

As indicated previously, Gays and Lesbians were the most likely to suffer violent hate crime incidents. Not surprisingly, Gay and Lesbian victims of hate crime were almost twice as likely as hate crime victims in general to suffer an injury as a result of the incident (46% versus 25%).

The impact of hate crime on victims can be far reaching. Research into the effects of hate crime victimization shows that victims experience 21% more of the standard psychological symptoms associated with stress than non-hate crime victims (Shaffer 1996). Additional research suggests the recovery period for some hate crimes may be longer than recovery from other crimes (Herek 1999).

Majority of Accused Not Known to the Victim

Similar to the results found in the GSS, the pilot survey found that in cases where the relationship of the accused was identified, the majority of victims did not know their perpetrator (83%). A further 15% of victims stated that the accused was a casual acquaintance or a business relationship.

Summary

Recently in Canada there have been efforts to measure the nature and extent of hate crime at a national level. The GSS on victimization and the EDS have made significant contributions to our current understanding of who is at risk of being the victim of a hate crime and the impact of hate crime on Canadians. These surveys are limited in that they exclude detailed information on hate crimes against certain sub-populations, on the accused, on hate crimes against institutions, and hate motivated homicides.

To address these limitations, a police reported pilot survey was undertaken to further advance our understanding of hate crimes against both individuals and institutions. In addition, for the first time police reported statistics on hate crimes were collected across various major police forces, therefore providing a better understanding of not only the incident and the victim, but also the accused.

To further advance the collection of national hate crime data, Statistics Canada will continue to collect victim reported hate crime data through the 2004 GSS, and will begin in 2005 to collect on-going detailed information on hate crimes that come to the attention of the police through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. In addition to the hate crime measures added to the UCR2 survey, there will be special training for police services to recognize and code criminal incidents as hate crimes. Both victim surveys and the police reported data will contribute to a more complete understanding of hate crime in Canada.

Data Sources

The General Social Survey conducts a survey on criminal victimization every five years, the last cycle being 1999. The survey involves a telephone interview with approximately 26,000 people aged 15 and over living in the 10 provinces and asks specific questions about their fear of crime and whether they perceive that they have been the victim of a hate crime during the 12 months preceding the survey. Other relevant variables examined include religion, and language.

The Ethnic Diversity Survey surveys 57,000 people aged 15 and older living in private dwellings in the 10 provinces. The survey aims to better understand how people's backgrounds affect their participation in social, economic and cultural life in Canada. The survey asks specific questions relating to discrimination and hate crime.

The Census is a survey of the total population of Canada conducted every five years. The census collects valuable information on race/ethnicity, language, religion, sex, age, disability, and common-law same-sex couples. All of these variables are relevant to the issues of hate crime.

The Hate Crime Pilot Survey's objectives were to enhance the understanding of hate crime, and to assess the feasibility of standardizing data collection of police-reported hate crime. It is based on police reported hate crime in 12 police services across Canada. The survey collects incidents that have

20. For 94 victims, or 48%, the extent of injury was not known.

occurred in 2001 and 2002. In this survey, a hate crime is a crime where the victim is targeted because of one or more of their characteristics. The Hate Crime Pilot Survey measures the characteristics of Race/Ethnicity, Religion, Language, Sexual Orientation, Sex, Disability, Age and Other Motivations as they apply to hate crime.

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Table 1

Characteristics of hate crime victims, 1999

Victim	No. of incident	%	Rate (per 1,000 population 15+)
Total ¹	210,489	100	9
Sex			
Male	100,739	48	8
Female	109,750	52	9
Age			
15-24	88,508	42	22
25-34	46,643 [†]	22	11
35+	75,338	36	5
Aboriginal Status			
Aboriginal	0 ^s	0 ^s	0 ^s
Non-Aboriginal	197,444	94	9
Country of Birth			
Canada	152,238	72	8
Outside Canada	57,888 [†]	28	12
Don't Know/Not Stated	0 ^s	0 ^s	0 ^s
Visible Minority Status			
Visible Minority	48,128 [†]	23	19
Non-visible Minority	162,361	77	7

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded.

[†] Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

1. Table is based on the number of personal crimes only (assault, sexual assault, robbery, theft of personal property).

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 2

Characteristics of ethno-cultural hate crime victims, 2001

	Total	Reported a hate crime	Hate crime rate per 1,000 pop. 15+
Total Population	22,445,490	324,920	14
Sex			
Male	10,947,760	155,280	14
Visible Minority	1,443,120	37,540	26
Not a visible Minority	9,394,960	115,230	12
Female	11,497,730	169,640	15
Visible Minority	1,556,730	23,530	15
Not a visible Minority	9,856,660	143,170	15
Age Group			
15-24	3,480,680	63,940	18
25-34	3,753,790	68,560	18
35-44	4,497,750	98,030	22
45-54	4,228,990	47,100	11
55+	6,484,280	47,290 [†]	7
Visible Minority & Immigration Status			
Visible minority	2,999,850	61,060	20
Canadian born population	542,880	16,780	31
Immigrant population (includes landed immigrants and non permanent residents)	2,455,520	44,290	18
Not a visible minority	19,251,620	258,400	13
Canadian born population	16,710,680	237,090	14
Immigrant population (includes landed immigrants and non permanent residents)	2,531,670	20,470 [†]	8 [†]

[†] Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Table 3

Individuals who were worried or very worried about becoming the victim of a hate crime because of their race, ethnicity, language and/or religion, 2001

	Total rating level of worry about crime as 4 or 5 - worried or very worried	
	Number	Percent
Total Population	1,112,630	5
Victimization in the past 5 years		
Victim of a hate crime	62,390	19
Victim of a crime but not a hate crime	145,320	4
No crime reported	896,690	5
Sex		
Male	445,370	4
Visible Minority	134,850	10
Not a visible Minority	306,140	3
Female	667,270	6
Visible Minority	183,820	12
Not a visible Minority	476,550	5
Age Group		
15-24	116,620	3
25-34	183,630	5
35-44	249,470	6
45-54	207,590	5
55+	355,320	5
Visible Minority & Immigration Status		
Visible minority	318,660	11
Canadian born population	37,380	7
Immigrant population (includes landed immigrants and non permanent residents)	281,200	12
Not a visible minority	782,680	4
Canadian born population	649,520	4
Immigrant population (includes landed immigrants and non permanent residents)	131,460	6
Year of Immigration		
Prior to 1971	109,590	7
1971 to 2001	304,460	10

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Refers to Canada's non-Aboriginal population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002.

Table 4

Incidents of Police Reported Hate Crimes by Most Serious Offence in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002

Offence	Number	Percent
Murder 1 st Degree	2	0.2
Attempted Murder	1	0.1
Other Violations Causing Death/Bodily Harm	1	0.1
Assaults – Total (levels 1,2,3)	236	25.4
Level 1	176	19.0
Level 2-Weapon	54	5.8
Level 3-Aggravated ²	6	0.6
Sexual Assault	1	0.1
Robbery	15	1.6
Criminal Harassment	37	4.0
Uttering Threats	187	20.2
Arson	6	0.6
Other Violent Violations ³	3	0.3
Break & Enter	10	1.1
Theft	6	0.6
Mischief ⁴	268	28.9
Weapons	3	0.3
Disturbing the Peace	5	0.5
Threatening/Harassing Phone Calls	21	2.3
Offences against Public Order ⁵	2	0.2
Hate Propaganda	124	13.4
Total	928	100

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.

2. Level 3-Aggravated includes Assault against Peace Officer, Other Assaults, and Aggravated Assaults

3. Other Violent Violations include: Abandon Child, Accessory After the Fact to Murder, Counsel/Aid/Abet Person to Commit Suicide, Conceal the body of a child: Cause Danger to Life.

4. Mischief includes most forms of vandalism.

5. Offences against Public Order include: Riot, Forcible Entry, Endangering Aircraft, and Threats Causing Death or Injury.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Table 5

Hate Crime Incidents by Motivation in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002

	Number	Percent of total	Percent of each sub category
Total All Incidents	928	100	
Race / Ethnicity	528	57	100
Black	156	17	30
South Asian ²	96	10	18
Multi Ethnic/Multi Race ³	84	9	16
Arab/West Asian ⁴	72	8	14
Other Race/Ethnicity ⁵	59	6	11
East and Southeast Asian ⁶	47	5	9
White	45	5	9
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	18	2	3
Aboriginal ⁷	7	1	1
Religion	398	43	100
Jewish	229	25	58
Islam (Muslim)	102	11	26
Religion Unknown	45	5	11
Other Religion ⁸	35	4	9
Catholic	12	1	3
No Religion	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	95	10	100
Gay and Lesbian	88	9	93
Sexual Orientation Unknown	7	1	7
Other Sexual Orientation ⁹	2	0	3
Bisexual	2	0	2
Heterosexual	0	0	0
Language	12	1	100
English	6	1	50
French	3	0	25
Other Language ¹⁰	2	0	17
Language Unknown	2	0	17
Sex	8	1	100
Age	4	0	100
Disability	6	1	100
Physical	3	0	43
Disability Unknown	2	0	29
Other Disability ¹¹	1	0	14
Mental	0	0	0
Other Motivation¹²	14	2	100
Unknown Motivation¹³	26	3	100

Note: Totals may equal more than 100% due to multiple responses.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.

2. South Asian refers to incidents targeting East Indians, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.

3. Multi Race/Multi Ethnicity refers to incidents targeting several race/ethnicity categories, these include anti-immigrant incidents and white supremacist incidents.

4. Arab/West Asian refers to incidents targeting Arabs, Afghans, Iranians, and Iraqis.

5. Other Race/Ethnicity includes Latin American, European and Other groups not previously mentioned.

6. East and Southeast Asian refer to Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean.

7. Aboriginal includes North American Indian, Métis, and Inuit.

8. Other religion refers to Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and other religions not previously mentioned.

9. Other Sexual Orientation includes Transsexuals, Transvestites, and other sexual orientations not found in the other categories.

10. Other Language refers to all languages other than English and French.

11. Other Disability refers to other specific disabilities other than physical or mental.

12. Other Motivation refers to hate crime incidents where the motivation is known but not found in any previous category.

13. Unknown motivation refers to incidents where it is believed there was a hate crime component, yet the actual motivation is unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Table 6

Incidents of Police Reported Hate Crime Offences by Category in Twelve Major Police Forces in Canada¹, 2001-2002

	Crimes against the person	Property crimes	Other crimes	Total
Race/Ethnicity	280	142	106	528
Black	82	52	22	156
South Asian ²	66	52	12	96
Multi Ethnic/Multi Race ³	8	17	59	84
Arab/West Asian ⁴	43	17	12	72
Other Race/Ethnicity ⁵	29	19	11	59
East and Southeast Asian ⁶	23	13	11	47
White	27	16	2	45
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	5	5	8	18
Aboriginal ⁷	5	0	2	7
Religion	144	152	102	398
Jewish	84	104	41	229
Muslim (Islam)	56	32	14	102
Religion Unknown	3	4	38	45
Other Religion ⁸	4	17	14	35
Catholic	4	8	0	12
Sexual Orientation	62	28	5	95
Gay and Lesbian	57	26	5	88
Sexual Orientation Unknown	5	2	0	7
Other Sexual Orientation ⁹	2	0	0	2
Bisexual	1	0	1	2
Language	8	3	1	12
English	4	2	0	6
French	2	1	0	3
Other Language ¹⁰	2	0	0	2
Language Unknown	1	0	1	2
Sex	0	0	0	0
Age	2	2	0	4
Disability	3	3	0	6
Physical	1	2	0	3
Disability Unknown	1	1	0	2
Other Disability ¹¹	1	0	0	1
Mental Disability	0	0	0	0
Other Motivation¹²	6	6	2	14
Unknown Motivation¹³	6	7	13	26

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes data from twelve major police forces: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Halton Regional, Montreal, Regina, Windsor, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ottawa, Waterloo, and the RCMP (excluding British Columbia). These data are not nationally representative.

2. South Asian refers to incidents targeting East Indians, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.

3. Multi Race/Multi Ethnicity refers to incidents targeting several race/ethnicity categories, these include anti-immigrant incidents and white supremacist incidents.

4. Arab/West Asian refers to incidents targeting Arabs, Afghans, Iranians, and Iraqis.

5. Other Race/Ethnicity includes Latin American, European and Other groups not previously mentioned.

6. East and Southeast Asian refer to Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean.

7. Aboriginal includes North American Indian, Métis, and Inuit.

8. Other religion refers to Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and other religions not previously mentioned.

9. Other Sexual Orientation includes Transsexuals, Transvestites, and other sexual orientations not found in the other categories.

10. Other Language refers to all languages other than English and French.

11. Other Disability refers to other specific disabilities other than physical or mental.

12. Other Motivation refers to hate crime incidents where the motivation is known but not found in any previous category.

13. Unknown motivation refers to incidents where it is believed there was a hate crime component, yet the actual motivation is unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Hate Crime Pilot Survey, 2001-2002.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Breaking and Entering in Canada - 2002

by Orest Fedorowycz

Highlights

- In 2002, there were almost 275,000 incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) reported to police representing a rate of 875 per 100,000 population - a 25-year low.
- Almost six in ten (59%) B&Es were residential in 2002, with another three in ten (29%) being committed against businesses. The remaining 12% involved other types of properties, such as storage facilities, detached garages, and sheds.
- Among the provinces, police-reported data show Saskatchewan as having the highest rate of residential B&Es, while the Atlantic provinces reported the lowest rates.
- Among the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Montreal and Winnipeg had the highest police-reported rates of residential B&Es while Toronto and Calgary had the lowest. Among the 16 smaller CMAs, the highest rates were found in Regina, Saskatoon, and Sherbrooke and the lowest in Kitchener, Victoria and Windsor. On average, B&E rates tend to be higher in the smaller CMAs.
- The most frequently stolen items from residences were audio/video equipment (22%), followed by jewellery (12%) and money, cheques or bonds (12%). A business B&E was more likely to result in the theft of money, cheques or bonds (22%), office equipment (15%) and consumable goods – e.g. cigarettes, liquor (10%).
- In 2002, 1,508 firearms were stolen during residential B&Es and 176 firearms were stolen during business B&Es. Overall, 67% of these firearms were rifles and shotguns, 8% were handguns and restricted weapons and 25% were firearm-like weapons, such as pellet guns and starters pistols.
- In 2002, over 31,000 persons were charged with B&E, the vast majority of whom were male (91%). Four in ten persons charged with B&E were youths. For property and violent crimes overall, youths represented 26% and 16% of persons charged, respectively.
- In 58% of convicted cases of B&E involving adults, the offenders were sentenced to custody as the most serious sentence, while 7% received conditional sentences, 30% received probation and 4% received other sanctions. Custody was ordered as the most serious sentence in almost one-third of youth B&E cases resulting in conviction, while 65% received probation and 4% received other sanctions.
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of prison sentences for adults were 6 months or less, and 11% were 2 years or more. Nine in ten (91%) of all custodial sentences for B&Es involving youths were 6 months or less.
- For adult offenders the most common probation term length was between 1 year and 2 years inclusive, accounting for over half (51%) of convicted adult B&E cases. For youths, the most common probation term length was between 6 months and 12 months inclusive, accounting for 60% of convicted B&E cases with probation.
- In 2002, there were 865 residential robberies with violence or the threat of violence reported to 73 police services via the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, representing a rate of 5 per 100,000 population. Two-thirds of persons accused of committing a residential robbery were strangers to the victim. Almost two-thirds of these incidents involved a weapon being present, usually a firearm (33%) or a knife (30%). Persons aged 60 or over were victimized in 15% of such incidents, compared to 4% for all violent crimes.

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Introduction

Breaking and entering (B&E) is one of the most common and most serious property offences. Many victims experience financial loss as well as disruption of daily activities interacting with police and insurance companies. For some, this violation of personal space can be emotionally traumatic. While comparatively rare, in incidents of residential robbery, some victims are physically injured.

Historically, about one quarter of all property offences reported to police are B&E offences. This report will provide an overview of residential, business, and 'other' B&E offences in Canada including trends in police-reported B&Es at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. In addition, the characteristics of all B&E incidents, victims, and accused will be discussed as well as residential breaking and entering offences with violence or the threat of violence ("home invasion"). Finally, court responses to these types of incidents will be presented.

Definitions

Canada's law against B&E is based on old English common law that narrowly defined the crime as an intrusion of a home during the night with the intent to commit a felony therein¹. Section 348(1) of the *Criminal Code* of Canada also includes breaking and entering of businesses and other properties, irrespective of the time of day or night of these offences. However, it still recognizes the seriousness of a residential B&E with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for those convicted of a B&E of a dwelling-house. The maximum penalty for other types of B&E is 10 years.

General trends

Breaking and entering rate at 25-year low

Breaking and Entering (B&E) represents the third largest offence category, accounting for 1 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents and 1 in 4 property crimes² reported by police. In 2002, there were 274,894 B&E incidents³. Under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, there are three categories of B&Es: residential, business (including public institutions, such as schools and churches) and other (non-residential private structures, such as detached garages, sheds, and storage and transportation facilities). While the majority of B&Es in 2002 were residential (six in ten), business B&Es accounted for almost three in ten and other B&Es for one in ten (Table 1). This distribution is similar to that of previous years.

The overall crime rate⁴ has been generally declining since the early 1990s and the 2002 rate of 7,590 incidents per 100,000 population was similar to the 1979 rate. The B&E rate declined 35% between 1996 and 2002 to 875 B&Es per 100,000 population, the lowest rate in 25 years (Figure 1).

In the United States, statistics on the comparable offence of "burglary" show that in 2002, there were about 2.2 million burglaries reported by police, representing a rate of 746 per 100,000 population, 15% lower than Canada's rate. Similar to Canada, the burglary rate in the United States has dropped 40% since 1991, but between 1996 and 2002⁵, their decline in the rate was smaller (-21%).

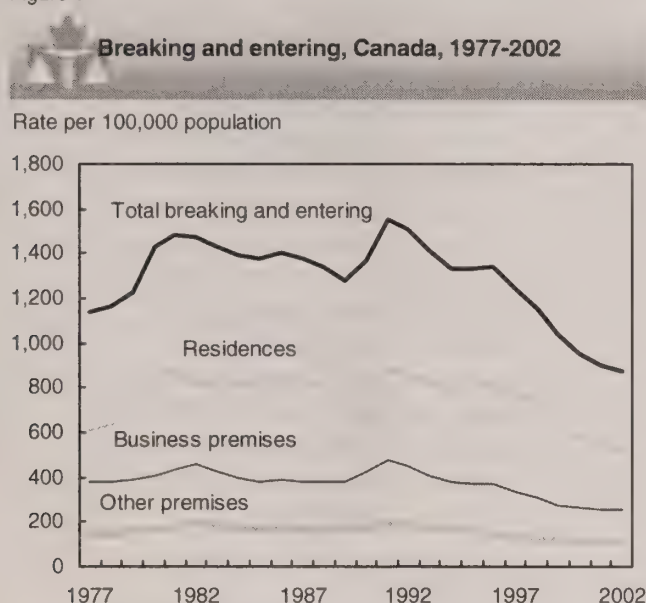
All types of B&Es steadily declining

Residential B&Es account for the majority (59%) of all B&Es. Since 1991 when residential B&Es peaked at just under 250,000 (a rate of 880 residential B&Es per 100,000 population), there has been a general decline in this category of B&Es. By Business

1. *Yogis, John A., Q.C. (1990). Canadian Law Dictionary. Baron's: Toronto, page 32.*
2. *Includes also theft, fraud, possession of stolen goods, and other property offences.*
3. *Police-reported B&Es in this report include attempts, and offences under Section 349(1) – Being unlawfully in a dwelling-house..*
4. *Criminal Code offences only.*
5. *United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

2002, the number of residential B&Es had fallen sharply to just under 163,000, a rate of 518 per 100,000 population. Between 1996 and 2002 alone, the residential B&E rate fell by 37%.

Figure 1



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

B&Es, accounting for 29% of all B&Es, have also been declining since 1991. Trends in both residential and business B&Es are quite similar (Figure 1). The approximately 80,000 business B&Es (254 per 100,000 population) in 2002 represented a 47% drop in the rate since peaking in 1991 at a rate of 480. In particular, since 1996 the rate has decreased 32%. The rate (103) of other B&Es in 2002 dropped 46% from its peak rate of 191 per 100,000 population in 1991 (Table 1).

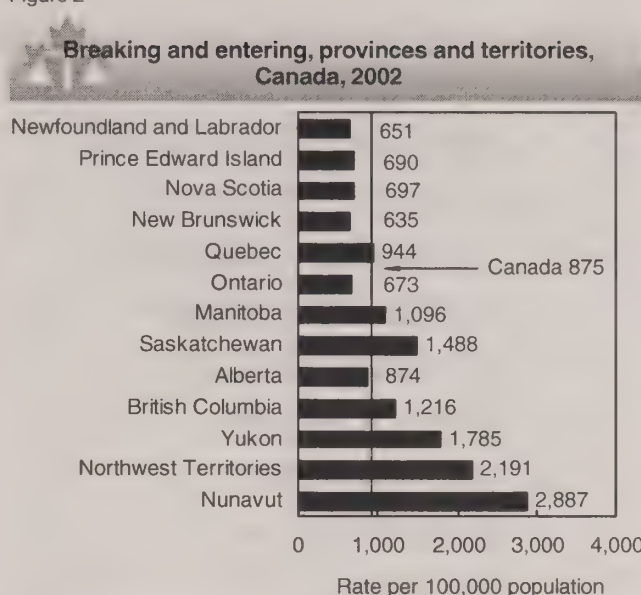
Geographical patterns – breaking and entering

Most provinces and territories experienced decreases in B&Es

All provinces and territories have had decreases in their B&E rates over the past five years, except Prince Edward Island (+5.6%) which has experienced large fluctuations from year to year and Nunavut (+21%)⁶. The declines between 1998 and 2002 in B&E rates ranged from -8% in the Yukon to -30% in Quebec (Table 2).

Historically, police-reported crime rates for the provinces have been generally higher in the west than in the east. This pattern holds true for B&Es. In 2002, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate of residential B&Es among the provinces (870 per 100,000 population); followed by Quebec (660). The lowest rates were found in New Brunswick (359), Newfoundland and Labrador (375) and Prince Edward Island (390) (Table 2) (Figure 2).

Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Saskatchewan also reported the highest rate of business B&Es among the provinces (350), followed closely by British Columbia (342) and Alberta (324). The three territories had the highest residential and business B&E rates nationally (Table 2).

Census metropolitan areas⁷

On average, smaller CMAs have more B&Es per 100,000 population than larger CMAs

Among Canada's nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁸ with populations of 500,000 and over, Montreal reported the highest rate of residential B&Es in 2002 with 674 per 100,000 population, followed by Winnipeg (647), and Vancouver (626) (Figure 3). As has been the case since 1991, when CMA data first became available, Toronto (325) reported the lowest rate among Canada's largest CMAs, followed by Calgary (369) and Ottawa⁹ (389). On average, urban areas in this CMA group have fewer residential B&Es per 100,000 population (499) than the CMAs with less than 500,000 population (614) (Table 3). Over the last five years, the residential B&E rate has declined in all nine large CMAs, with the largest decreases reported in Ottawa (-44%) and Vancouver (-42%).

In 2002, the highest rates of business B&Es were in Vancouver (391), Edmonton (384) and Calgary (325) and the lowest in Hamilton (141), Ottawa (199) and Toronto (202). The average

6. Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory in 1999. Data for 1998 were derived.

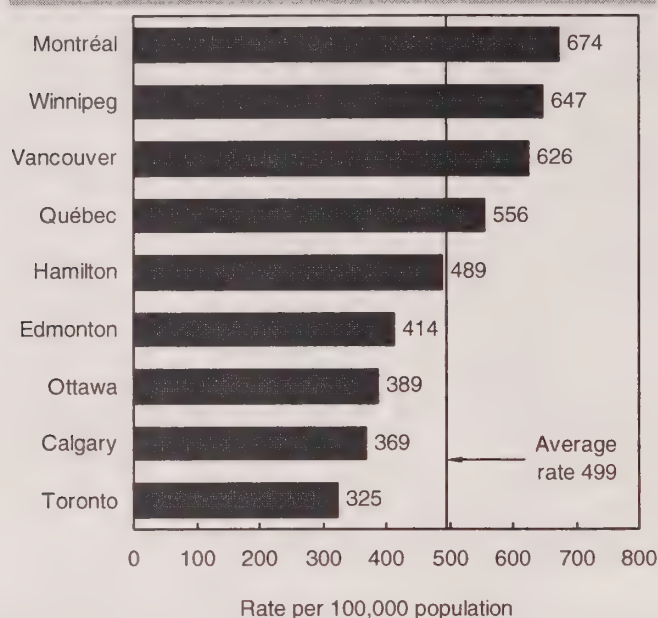
7. Since a single CMA can include a number of police jurisdictions, it is beneficial to examine rates for specific police services that comprise that CMA to pinpoint changes in criminal activity (Table 7).

8. A CMA represents an area with a large urban core (over 100,000 population) having adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

9. Ottawa refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Figure 3

Residential breaking and entering, census metropolitan areas, populations 500,000 and over, Canada, 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

business B&E rate for this CMA group was 266 per 100,000 population. Business B&Es decreased in seven of the nine largest CMAs during the period 1998 to 2002 with the largest rate decreases reported in Ottawa (-28%) and Calgary (-28%), followed by Vancouver (-27%).

Among the remaining 16 CMAs with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, the highest rates of residential B&Es were in Regina (1,101) and Saskatoon (1,016), and the lowest in Kitchener (413) and Victoria (414). The average residential B&E rate for this CMA group was 614 per 100,000 population (Table 3) (Figure 4). Fourteen of the sixteen CMAs reported decreases in their rates of residential B&Es for the period 1998 to 2002, with the largest decrease reported in Saguenay (-53%).

In 2002, the highest rate for business B&Es was in Regina (428 per 100,000) and the lowest in Saint John (146). The average business B&E rate for this CMA group was 239 per 100,000 population. Rates for business B&Es over the past five years, declined in fifteen of the sixteen CMAs, with the largest decrease in Victoria (-48%).

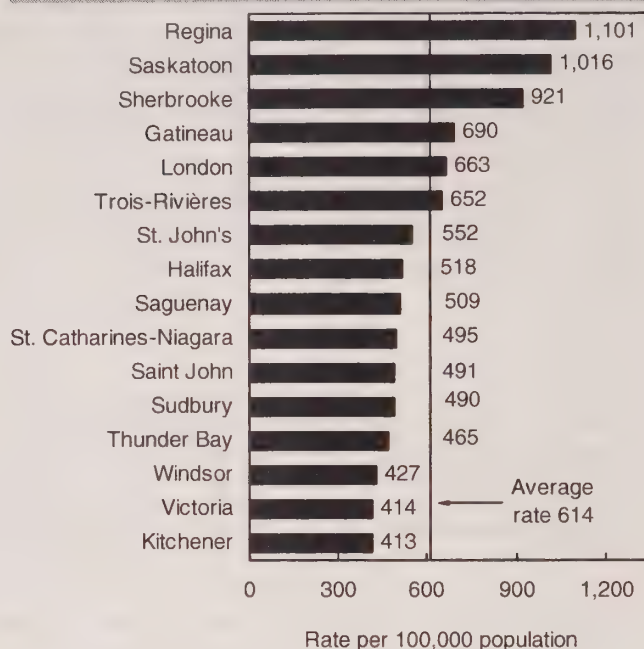
Characteristics of B&E incidents

Residences targeted for audio/video equipment, businesses for money

In 2002, police-reported data to the incident-based UCR (UCR2) Survey¹⁰ show that property was stolen in the majority (72%) of B&E incidents. The most common types of items stolen from

Figure 4

Residential breaking and entering, census metropolitan areas, populations 100,000 - 499,999, Canada, 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

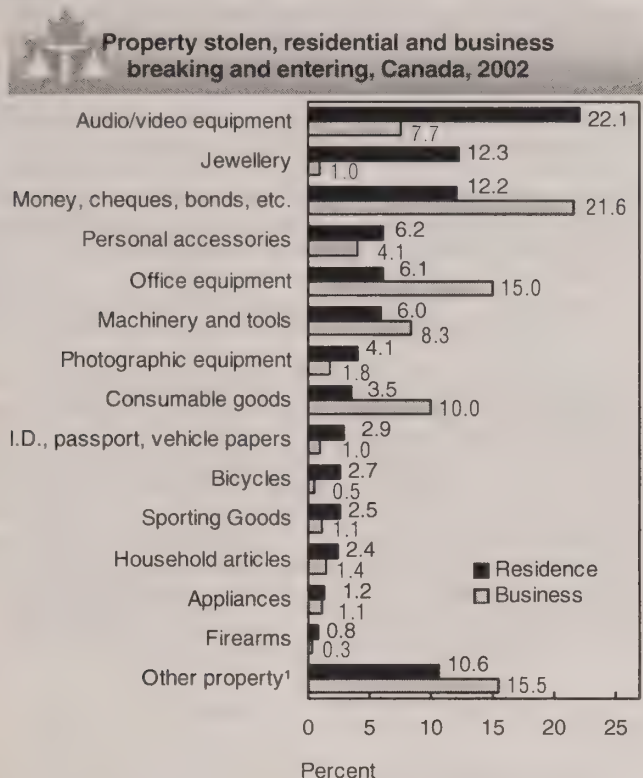
residences were audio/video equipment (22%) such as televisions, stereos and VCR/DVD equipment, followed by jewellery (12%); money, cheques or bonds (12%); personal accessories (e.g. clothing) (6%); machinery and tools (6%); office equipment (e.g. home computers, fax machines) (6%); photographic equipment (4%) and bicycles (3%). Thieves who broke into businesses most often stole money, cheques or bonds (22%), office equipment (15%), consumable goods (e.g. liquor and cigarettes) (10%), machinery and tools (8%), audio/video equipment (8%), and personal accessories (4%). Jewellery accounted for just 1% of items stolen from businesses (Figure 5).

Firearms accounted for a small percentage of items stolen during residential and business B&Es (0.7%). The UCR2 Survey in 2002 recorded 1,508 firearms stolen during residential B&Es and another 176 stolen during business B&Es. Forty percent of the firearms stolen from residences were rifles and 30% were shotguns. Another 23% were firearm-like weapons¹¹ and 8% were restricted weapons including handguns. For business B&Es, the proportions were 30% for rifles, 15% for shotguns, 49% for firearm-like weapons and 6% for restricted weapons including handguns.

10. The 123 police forces reporting these data represent 59% of the national volume of crime.

11. Pellet guns, flare guns, starters pistols, nail guns, etc.

Figure 5



Note: Based on a non-representative subset of 123 police services representing 59% of the national volume of crime

1. Any item not included in the above categories, such as fire extinguishers, precious metals, or animals.

Source: Incident-based UCR2 Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Reporting to police

Victimization surveys show that B&E is a crime very likely to be reported to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS)¹² 62% of Canadian respondents who experienced a residential B&E reported it to the police, the highest reporting rate of any of the eight offences measured by this survey. The next highest reporting rates were for motor vehicle/parts theft (60%) and robbery (46%). When asked why they reported the incident to police, respondents most frequently stated that they felt a duty to do so (83%) and to catch and punish the offender (80%). Though respondents could give more than one reason, only half (52%) alerted police for insurance purposes, possibly as a result of increasing insurance deductible amounts and to avoid increases in premiums. Other reasons for reporting were to "stop the incident" or "receive protection" (44%).

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada¹³ the number of residential and commercial claims has dropped 36% from 1998 to 2001, and the cost to the insurance industry has fallen 8%¹⁴. In 2001, the insurance industry paid out \$243 million in claims for residential and commercial B&Es¹⁵.

Few B&E incidents are solved by police

As with most property crimes, few B&E incidents are solved by the police. In 2002, 16% of B&E incidents were cleared either by laying a charge against an accused or cleared otherwise (17% for residential B&Es, 15% for business B&Es). In comparison, 12% of motor vehicle thefts and 20% of other thefts were cleared. Of all B&E incidents cleared by police in 2002, almost two-thirds were cleared by a charge being laid. The remaining third were cleared "otherwise". An incident "cleared otherwise" means that a person was identified in connection with the incident and against whom a charge could be laid but was not for various reasons (e.g. under 12 years of age; already involved in other crimes for which charges have already been laid; the use of formal or informal diversion; accused already sentenced; accused died). Over the last decade, the number of persons charged has decreased by 44% (Table 4). This drop can be explained by the decrease in the number of incidents reported from 1993 to 2002 (-32%) and the decrease in the rate of incidents cleared by charge: 14% were cleared by charge in 1993 compared to 11% in 2002.

Youths overrepresented among persons accused of B&E

Of the 275,000 incidents of breaking and entering in 2002, just over 31,000 persons were charged by police for committing B&Es (Table 4). Of these, 63% were adults and 37% were youths aged 12 to 17 years, a distribution that has changed very little since 1986, when the uniform maximum age provision of the Young Offenders Act was implemented across all provinces and territories. Youths, as a proportion of the general population, are overrepresented among persons accused of B&E. For property crimes overall, youths represented 26% of all persons charged and for motor vehicle thefts, the proportion was 40%. For violent crimes, 16% of persons charged were youths, although the proportion was higher for robberies¹⁶. Respondents to the UCR2 Survey, representing a subset of all police services, reported the highest rates for committing B&Es for persons accused¹⁷ in the age group of 15 to 19 years at 798 per 100,000 population (Figure 6). The vast majority of persons charged with B&E were male (91%), however, since 1993, the proportion of females charged has increased from 6% to 9% in 2002.

12. Statistics Canada. 2001. A Profile of Criminal Victimization: Results of the 1999 General Social Survey. Catalogue no. 85-553-XIE. Ottawa: Minister Responsible for Statistics Canada.

13. Members of the Insurance Bureau of Canada represent about 95% of the total insurance industry.

14. Dollar figures were adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index with the base year being 1992.

15. These figures represent approximately 45% of insurance companies that reported residential claims and 52% of companies that reported commercial claims.

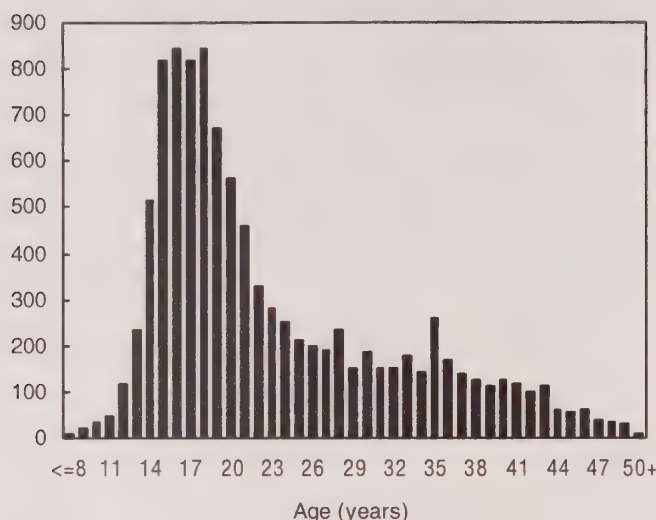
16. Wallace, M., "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2002, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 23, no. 5, p. 22.

17. Under the UCR survey, an accused is a person who has been identified as a suspect in an incident and against whom a charge has either been laid or could be laid in connection with that incident. Charges may not have been laid for various reasons (e.g. under 12 years of age; already involved in other crimes for which charges have already been laid).

Figure 6

Age-specific rates of persons accused of breaking and entering, Canada, 2002

Rate per 1,000,000 population



Note: Based on a non-representative subset of 94 police services representing 56% of the national volume of crime

Source: Incident-based UCR2 Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Residential robberies with violence

Recent reports in the media about residential robberies with violence or the threat of violence against the occupants have resulted in questions about the nature and extent of these types of crime in Canada. This phenomenon commonly referred to as "home invasion" by the media has garnered special attention because of the fear of physical injury, especially in cases where the elderly have been targeted. While no official definition of this crime exists in the *Criminal Code* of Canada, it is normally characterized by the unlawful entry, usually forced, into a private residence while the occupants are home, and involves premeditated confrontation with the occupants with the intent to rob and/or inflict violence. This description resembles more closely the *Criminal Code* definition of robbery than breaking and entering.

Robbery as defined by the *Criminal Code*

Section 343 Robbery

Every one who (a) steals, and for the purpose of extorting whatever is stolen or to prevent or overcome resistance to the stealing, uses violence or threats of violence to a person or property;

(b) steals from any person and, at the time he steals or immediately before or immediately thereafter, wounds, beats, strikes or uses any personal violence to that person;

(c) assaults any person with intent to steal from him; or

(d) steals from any person while armed with an offensive weapon or imitation thereof.

Source: Criminal Code of Canada R.S.C. 1985.

Because there is no agreed-upon definition¹⁸, "home invasion" is difficult to measure and is not captured directly by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. Examples of incidents that could be classified as "home invasions" include the following:

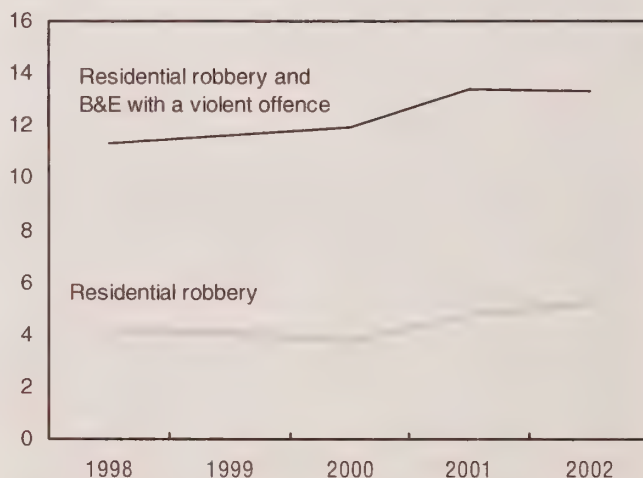
- a homeowner returns home unexpectedly while a break and enter is in progress and there is confrontation;
- a person breaks into a home believing that no one is home and someone is, or believing that the occupants are all asleep and they wake up, and there is confrontation; and,
- someone forcibly enters the home of a person known to them to "settle a score".

Since there are no national data on "home invasions", the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey can be used to examine incidents where police have reported a robbery occurring in a private residence¹⁹. The rate of robberies occurring in a residence decreased slightly between 1998 and 2000, after which it increased gradually. Overall, since 1998 (4 residential robberies per 100,000 population) the rate has increased by 24%. The number of these incidents (865) reported to police in 2002 represented a rate of 5 per 100,000 population. This definition excludes, however, any residential B&Es where there was a violent offence other than a robbery²⁰ (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Residential robbery and breaking and entering with violence, Canada, 1998-2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: Based on a non-representative subset of 73 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime

Source: Incident-based UCR2 Survey Trend Database, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

18. In 2002, Bill C15A was proclaimed, amending the *Criminal Code* to make "home invasion" an aggravating circumstance at sentencing.

19. A non-representative sample of 73 police services representing 46% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* offences.

20. A broader definition combining residential robberies and B&Es involving other violent offences showed a rate that increased each year since 1998, up 18% overall.

Characteristics²¹ of residential robberies

Two-thirds of accused not known to victim

Examining incidents where police reported a robbery in a private residence, between 1998 and 2002, 68% of all accused were strangers to the victim, a further 19% were acquaintances and in 9% of the cases, the relationship between the accused and the victim was unknown. For other (non-residential) robberies, strangers were the accused in 82% of incidents, acquaintances in 9%, and in 8% of cases, the relationship was unknown.

Weapons present in 60% of residential robberies

Six in ten (62%) robberies in a residence involved a weapon being present while in the remaining incidents (38%) physical force or the threat of physical harm was used. Of all residential robberies involving weapons, the most common weapons present were firearms (33%), and knives or other cutting instruments (30%). Another 20% of these incidents involved weapons used to garotte or poison, followed by 12% with clubs or blunt instruments. The type of weapon present was not known in 6% of incidents²². In other (non-residential) robberies, weapons were present in 63% of incidents (excludes physical force or threats), and in these incidents the most common weapons were knives (39%) and firearms (26%).

Weapon use resulted in injury in one-third of all residential robberies

Weapons were used and caused injury to victims in one-third of all residential robberies, compared to one-quarter of all other (non-residential) robberies. Firearms causing injury were used in 10% of residential robberies, and 7% of all other robberies. Knives and physical force were used just as often in residential as in non-residential robberies, 8% and 25%, respectively.

Almost half of victims sustained injuries

Almost half of residential robberies involved injuries to the victims compared to less than one-third of non-residential robberies. A victim was twice as likely to sustain physical injuries requiring professional medical treatment during residential robberies than other robberies (9% versus 4%).

Persons 60 years and older victimized more in residential robberies than in all violent crimes

Of all victims of residential robberies between 1998 and 2002, almost three in ten (28%) victims were between the ages of 18 and 29 years, comparable to this group's victimization in all violent crimes. Another 17% of victims fell in the 30 to 39 age group, followed by 16% in the 40 to 49 age group, and 10% in the 50 to 59 age group. Persons aged 60 years and older were victimized in 15% of residential robberies compared to 4% of all violent crimes.

Occurrences of residential robberies or B&Es with violence are rare in comparison to the total number of robberies and B&Es reported to police. These incidents, however, are particularly traumatic for the victims. Until there is a uniform definition of "home invasion" and more police services collecting comparable statistics on this phenomenon, it will continue to be difficult to

provide information on the nature and extent of this type of crime in Canada.

Police services data on "Home Invasion"

Some police services record the number of "home invasions" in their jurisdiction, although definitions may differ from force to force. The following data and definitions of "home invasion" represent some of the police services that are currently able to capture data on "home invasions":

Vancouver Police define a "home invasion" as "where the suspect(s) choose a residential premise in which they know a person or persons are present with the pre-formulated plan of confronting the occupant(s), attacking them, holding them or binding them, thereby committing assault and unlawful confinement, then a theft is attempted or completed, thereby committing robbery".

Year	Number
2000	35
2001	38
2002	49

Toronto Police define "home invasion" as a robbery committed in the living quarters of a residence.

Year	Number
1999	175
2000	127
2001	178
2002	173

Calgary Police record an incident of home invasion when the culprit(s) enter a residence by force, threats, intimidation, or permission, either knowing or expecting the residence to be occupied. Or, culprit(s) break in to residence and wait for the residents to return. Culprit(s) must have pre-formulated intention of taking property, money or drugs, etc., and use force, threats, or intimidation towards any person in the residence to achieve their goal."

Year	Number
2000	16
2001	15
2002	21

Courts dispositions and sentencing

During 2002/03, 21,000 B&E cases were processed through the courts. The reduced number of B&E cases of persons charged before the courts compared to the number of persons charged by police is a result of different units of count used in the Court Surveys and the UCR Survey. Cases in the Court Surveys can include B&E charges against the same individual from one or more incidents, whereas in the UCR Survey the same accused would be charged in each B&E incident. Further, cases appearing before the courts may have occurred in different reference periods.

Almost 70% of B&E cases resulted in convictions

In 2002/03, adult criminal courts in ten provinces/territories²³, representing about 90% of the national caseload, processed 13,557 cases of breaking and entering. These cases accounted

21. *Aggregated UCR2 Trend data from 1998 to 2002 were used for this information.*

22. *Percentages may add up to more than 100% because of rounding.*

23. *Adult Criminal Court data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.*

for about 3% of the adult provincial/territorial court caseload²⁴. Since 1998/99, there has been a 16% decrease in the number of B&E cases processed²⁵. Sixty-nine percent of the B&E cases heard in adult provincial/territorial court resulted in a finding of guilt, the highest conviction rate among all Property Crime offences. As a group, Crimes Against Property had the third highest conviction rate (63%) following Criminal Code Traffic offences (71%) and Administration of Justice offences such as breach of probation, fail to appear, etc.(64%)²⁶.

During the fiscal year 2002/03, youth courts across Canada processed 7,415 cases of youths charged with B&E²⁷, 33% fewer than in 1998/99. These cases accounted for 9% of the youth court provincial caseload, the fourth largest proportion after theft (15%), Young Offenders Act offences (12%), and common assault (11%)²⁸. Seven in ten B&E cases heard in youth court resulted in a conviction²⁹.

Custodial sentences

Use of conditional sentences in Adult Court for B&Es has grown

In 2002/03, custody and probation represented the majority (96%) of sentences for B&E cases resulting in convictions. Fines and other types of sentences were imposed in only 4% of cases.

The proportion of B&E cases in Adult Court receiving prison sentences upon conviction, has been decreasing gradually from 63% in 1998/99 to 57% in 2001/02, after which this proportion increased slightly to 58% in 2002/03. At the same time, the proportion of cases receiving conditional sentences has increased from 2% to 6%³⁰, and the average length of conditional sentences has increased from 265 days to 282 days.

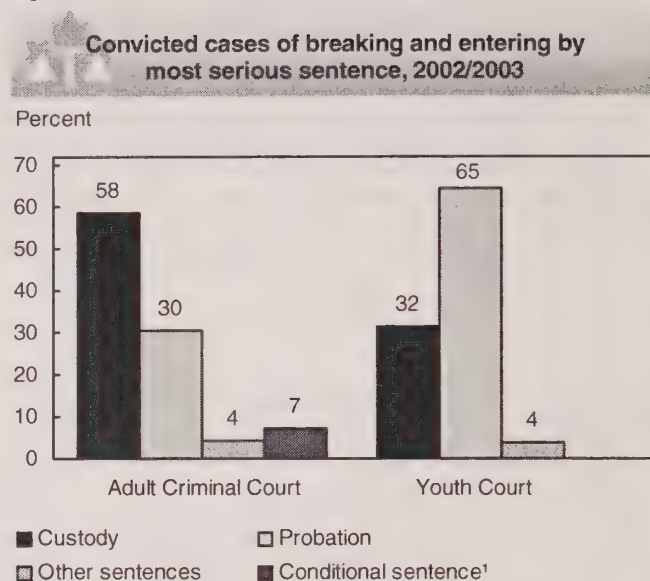
The use of secure and open custody as sentences for B&Es heard in Youth Courts has decreased slightly from 34% to 32% between 1998/99 and 2002/03.

58% of Adult Court B&E cases receive a custodial sentence compared to 32% for Youth Court cases

In 2002/03, adults were more likely to receive prison sentences in B&E cases (58%) than in other property crime cases such as possession of stolen property (50%) and theft (39%) (Table 5) (Figure 8). This is not surprising given that the Criminal Code proclaims B&E a more serious offence than other property crimes like arson, theft and mischief. As a group, property crimes in adult court received prison sentences more often than crimes against persons (40% versus 36%)³¹. In general, adults committing property crimes also tend to have long criminal records³². When determining the type of sanction to be imposed, judges consider many factors, among them the seriousness of the crime and an offender's criminal history.

Youths were more likely to receive a custody sentence for B&Es than for other property crimes and even some violent cases. For example, in about 32% of convicted cases of B&E, offenders were sentenced to secure or open custody (Table 6) compared to 20% for all other property crimes, 25% for sexual assault cases and 31% for major assault cases³³.

Figure 8



1. Adult Criminal Court only

Source: Youth Court and Adult Criminal Court Surveys, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

63% of adults compared to 91% of youths received custodial sentences of 6 months or less

For adults convicted in cases of Break and Enter in 2002/03, almost two-thirds (63%) of prison sentences were 6 months or less, while an additional 26% were for periods from greater than 6 months to less than 2 years. The remaining 11% of custodial sentences were 2 years or more in length (Figure 9). Two-thirds (66%) of all youth custodial sentences imposed for B&Es were 3 months or less, while an additional 25% were for periods greater than 3 months up to 6 months. The remaining 9% of custodial sentences were for periods greater than 6 months but less than 2 years³⁴.

24. McCutcheon, A. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2002/03". 2003. Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.23, no.10, p.14.

25. Trend data from 1988/89 to 2002/03, representing approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload, were not available for New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

26. McCutcheon, A. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2002/03". 2003. Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.23, no.10, p.4 and 6.

27. Where B&E was the most significant charge.

28. Robinson, P. "Youth Court Statistics, 2002/03." 2004. Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.24, no.2, p.11.

29. Idem, p.13.

30. Trend data from 1988/89 to 2002/03, representing approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload, were not available for New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

31. McCutcheon, A. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2002/03". 2003. Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.23, no.10, p.17.

32. Thomas, M., Hurley, H. and C.Grimes. 2002 Pilot Analysis of Recidivism among Convicted Youth and Young Adults – 1999/00. Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.22, no.9.

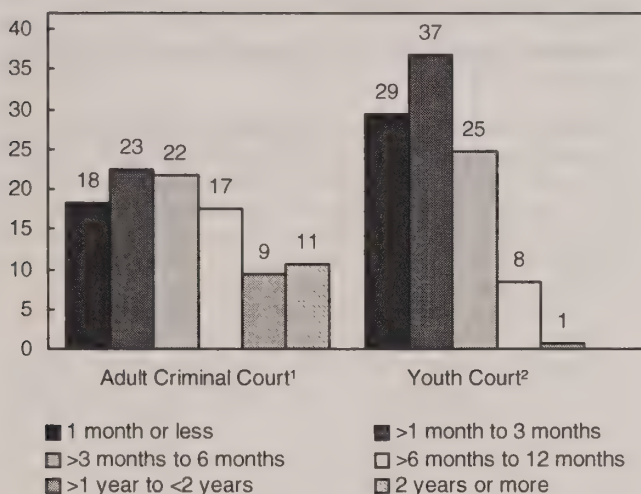
33. Major assaults refer to assaults involving weapons and injury.

34. Maximum sentence for B&E in Youth Court is 3 years.

Figure 9

Convicted cases of breaking and entering by custodial sentence length (most serious sentence), Canada, 2002/2003

Percent



1. Excludes data for Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

2. Maximum sentence for B&E is 3 years. Youths serve the full sentence and are not eligible for early release.

Source: Youth Court and Adult Criminal Court Surveys, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Mean length of custodial sentences in B&Es declining for adults and youths

After peaking in 1999/00 (276 days), the mean sentence length in adult court has decreased 7% in the last 3 years to 256 days in 2002/03. Overall, the mean sentence length has decreased by 4% since 1998/99.

Overall, from 1998/99 to 2002/03 the mean length of secure custody sentences for B&Es in Youth Court has decreased (-9%) from 108 to 98 days. The mean length of open custody sentences has also decreased (-7%) during this period, from 103 to 96 days.

Prince Edward Island has the highest incarceration rate for B&E cases

The highest use of custodial sentences in B&E cases in 2002/03 was in Prince Edward Island, with eight in ten (83%) of Adult Court cases receiving custody as the most serious sentence and almost six in ten (58%) of convicted Youth Court cases receiving this sanction. Prince Edward Island was followed by Newfoundland and Labrador with proportions of 69% for adults and 45% for youths. Custodial sentences for adults were least used in Saskatchewan (47%) and for youths, in Quebec (24%). Conditional sentences (Adult Courts only) were most often used in New Brunswick (23%) and least used in Prince Edward Island (4%) (Tables 5 and 6).

The use of incarceration across jurisdictions is influenced by several factors. First, the distribution of offence types can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For example, a jurisdiction with a higher than average proportion of serious crimes may have a higher than average overall proportion of cases with prison sentences. Second, courts across the country may differ in the extent of the use of incarceration for certain offences. Third, the prior offending history of the persons convicted could be a factor.

Probation orders

Highest use of adult probation in Quebec and youth probation in Manitoba for B&E cases

In Adult Court, the use of probation as the most serious sentence for B&Es remained relatively stable since 1998/99, at 32% in 2002/03³⁵, whereas the proportion of B&E cases in Youth Court resulting in a probation term increased from 58% in 1998/99 to 65% in 2002/03.

In 30% of all adult B&E cases in 2002/03 with a conviction, the courts imposed a term of probation³⁶ (Figure 8). The highest use of probation as the most serious sentence was in Quebec, where 48% of convicted cases of B&E received a term of probation, followed by New Brunswick (27%). Probation as the most serious sentence was least often imposed in Prince Edward Island (9%) and not at all in the Yukon (Table 5).

In 2002/03, probation was imposed as the most serious sentence in 65% of convicted cases of B&E involving young offenders (Figure 8). Probation was most frequently used in Manitoba, where 71% of convicted cases received probation, followed by British Columbia (70%). In fact, in 11 out of 13 jurisdictions, probation was imposed in at least 50% of convicted cases of B&E. Probation was least used in Prince Edward Island (42%) (Table 6).

Most common probation length for adults is 1 to 2 years compared to 6 to 12 months for youths

In 2002/03, the most common probation term length for adults was "greater than 1 year to 2 years" accounting for half (51%) of convicted B&E cases with probation. Another 38% of cases had probation orders greater than 6 months up to 1 year in length. Six percent of cases had probation periods of 6 months or less, and the remaining 5% of cases had probation orders greater than 2 years in length (Figure 10). For youths, the most common probation term length was "greater than 6 months to 12 months" accounting for 60% of convicted B&E cases with probation. Another 29% of cases had probation orders greater than 1 year to 2 years in length. The remaining probation orders (11%) were 6 months or less in length.

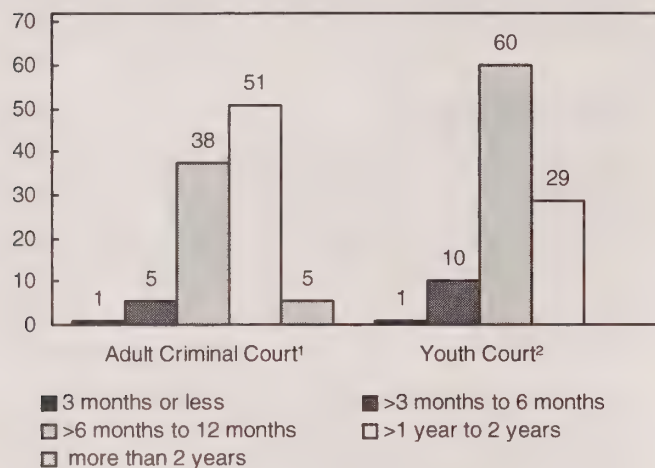
35. Trend data from 1988/89 to 2002/03, representing approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload, were not available for New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

36. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or suspended sentence.

Figure 10

Convicted cases of breaking and entering by length of probation (most serious sentence), Canada, 2002/2003

Percent



1. Excludes data for Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

2. Maximum length for probation is 2 years.

Source: Youth Court and Adult Criminal Court Surveys, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Mean length of probation decreasing for adults while relatively stable for youths

The mean probation length for adults, after a small increase in 2000/01 continues to decline. In 2002/03 the mean probation length was 541 days compared to 554 days in 1998/99. For youths, the mean probation length has remained relatively stable from 1998/99 to 2002/03, at 394 days in 2002/03.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey.

Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries

the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to Catalogue No. 85-205-XIE October 2003.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail. In 2002, detailed data were collected from 123 police services in 9 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) Criminal Code crimes. The incidents contained in the 2002 database were distributed as follows: 41% from Ontario, 29% from Québec, 11% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The **UCR2 Trend Database** is a subset of the UCR2 survey database and contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and accused/victim relationships. This database currently includes 73 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2002. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 5 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

The **UCR2 Research Database** is a subset of the UCR2 Survey database and contains complete data from all respondents who reported to the Survey for 2002. This database comprises 94 police services accounting for 59% of the national volume of crime in 2002.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of Criminal Code and other federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

The absence of data from all but six superior court jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon) may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. While these limitations are important, comparisons from one year to another are possible if the reporting jurisdictions used in the comparison are held constant.

The **ACCS Trend Data** is a subset of the ACCS database and contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of adult criminal court cases and charges. This data was submitted by eight jurisdictions since 1998/99 representing approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The jurisdictions include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to *Juristat* Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE Vol.23 No.10, 2003.

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other Federal Statute* offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. The primary unit of analysis used for the YCS is the "case", defined as one or more charges against a young person disposed of on the same date. The YCS adopted the Adult Criminal Court Survey definition of a case during the 2001/02 reference year, in an effort to make the two surveys more consistent. Trend data presented in this *Juristat* are based on the new definition to ensure data comparability. Case counts are categorized by the most serious offence, most serious decision and most serious sentence. Consequently, less serious offences, decisions and sentences are under-represented.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) has been implemented, such as pre-court screening procedures, pre-charge screening by the Crown, and police or Crown diversion programs. Variations in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to *Juristat* Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE Vol.24 No.2, 2004.

Table 1

Breaking and entering, Canada, 1977-2002

Year	Total B&E*			Residential B&E			Business B&E			Other B&E ¹		
	Number	Rate ²	Annual % rate change	Number	Rate ²	Annual % rate change	Number	Rate ²	Annual % rate change	Number	Rate ²	Annual % rate change
1977	270,659	1,141	...	144,612	609	...	90,250	380	...	35,797	151	...
1978	278,480	1,162	1.9	152,968	638	4.7	90,852	379	-0.3	34,660	145	-4.1
1979	296,437	1,225	5.4	164,192	678	6.3	93,292	385	1.7	38,953	161	11.3
1980	349,694	1,426	16.5	209,565	855	26.0	99,041	404	4.8	41,088	168	4.1
1981	367,250	1,480	3.7	216,222	871	1.9	107,453	433	7.2	43,575	176	4.8
1982	369,882	1,473	-0.5	204,643	815	-6.5	115,695	461	6.4	49,544	197	12.4
1983	362,376	1,429	-3.0	209,929	828	1.6	106,346	419	-9.0	46,101	182	-7.9
1984	356,912	1,394	-2.4	209,923	820	-0.9	101,856	398	-5.1	45,133	176	-3.0
1985	356,744	1,380	-1.0	213,443	826	0.8	98,859	383	-3.8	44,442	172	-2.4
1986	365,140	1,399	1.3	217,675	834	1.0	101,536	389	1.7	45,929	176	2.3
1987	364,144	1,377	-1.6	219,324	829	-0.6	99,733	377	-3.1	45,087	170	-3.1
1988	359,198	1,340	-2.6	214,101	799	-3.7	101,377	378	0.3	43,720	163	-4.3
1989	348,430	1,277	-4.7	200,863	736	-7.9	102,886	377	-0.3	44,681	164	0.4
1990	379,364	1,370	7.2	215,284	777	5.6	117,399	424	12.4	46,681	169	2.9
1991	434,602	1,550	13.2	246,716	880	13.3	134,432	480	13.2	53,454	191	13.2
1992	427,153	1,505	-2.9	245,453	865	-1.7	128,514	453	-5.6	53,186	187	-1.7
1993	406,421	1,416	-5.9	239,322	834	-3.6	115,757	403	-11.0	51,342	179	-4.6
1994	387,867	1,336	-5.7	227,199	782	-6.2	110,480	380	-5.7	50,188	173	-3.4
1995	390,784	1,331	-0.3	235,129	801	2.4	108,749	370	-2.6	46,906	160	-7.6
1996	397,057	1,338	0.5	242,639	818	2.1	110,196	371	0.2	44,222	149	-6.7
1997	373,316	1,245	-7.0	233,724	779	-4.7	100,696	336	-9.6	38,896	130	-13.0
1998	350,774	1,160	-6.8	221,366	732	-6.1	92,590	306	-8.8	36,818	122	-6.2
1999	318,054	1,042	-10.1	197,022	646	-11.8	83,971	275	-10.1	37,061	121	-0.2
2000	293,357	953	-8.6	175,804	571	-11.6	82,074	267	-3.2	35,479	115	-5.1
2001	279,461	898	-5.7	166,500	535	-6.3	80,264	258	-3.2	32,697	105	-8.8
2002	274,894	875	-2.6	162,851	518	-3.1	79,724	254	-1.6	32,319	103	-2.1

* Breaking and entering.

... not applicable

1. B&Es involving other structures such as detached garages, sheds, storage and transportation facilities.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates as of July 1st. Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Residential and business breaking and entering, provinces and territories, Canada, 2002

Jurisdiction	Total B&E* ¹			Residential B&E			Business B&E		
	Number	Rate ²	% rate change 1998-2002	Number	Rate ²	% rate change 1998-2002	Number	Rate ²	% rate change 1998-2002
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,460	651	-20.8	1,991	375	-21.9	992	187	-19.4
Prince Edward Island	966	690	35.0	546	390	40.6	302	216	31.9
Nova Scotia	6,581	697	-28.5	3,808	403	-30.5	1,612	171	-22.5
New Brunswick	4,805	635	-18.7	2,719	359	-17.7	1,247	165	-21.9
Quebec	70,370	944	-29.5	49,200	660	-34.4	19,161	257	-15.4
Ontario	81,181	673	-24.2	48,957	406	-25.0	24,577	204	-16.4
Manitoba	12,616	1,096	-22.3	7,290	633	-28.1	2,992	260	-20.4
Saskatchewan	15,055	1,488	-14.2	8,801	870	-18.6	3,537	350	-16.2
Alberta	27,214	874	-15.2	12,693	408	-18.9	10,081	324	-10.4
British Columbia	50,376	1,216	-25.7	25,813	623	-34.0	14,154	342	-24.1
Yukon	534	1,785	-7.5	277	926	-18.3	226	755	28.0
Northwest Territories ³	907	2,191	-11.1	419	1,012	4.6	422	1,019	-13.2
Nunavut ³	829	2,887	20.7	337	1,174	22.1	421	1,466	29.6
Canada	274,894	875	-24.5	162,851	518	-29.2	79,724	254	-17.1

* Breaking and entering.

1. Includes B&Es involving other structures such as detached garages, sheds, storage and transportation facilities.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

3. Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory in 1999. Data for 1998 for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories were derived.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Residential and business breaking and entering, census metropolitan area (CMA), Canada, 2002¹

Census metropolitan area	Population ³	Total B&E ^{*2}			Residential B&E			Business B&E		
		Number	Rate ⁴	% rate change 1998-2002 ⁵	Number	Rate ⁴	% rate change 1998-2002 ⁵	Number	Rate ⁴	% rate change 1998-2002 ⁵
Population 500,000 and over										
Toronto	4,987,556	27,426	550	-17.2	16,202	325	-19.4	10,099	202	-15.4
Montréal	3,524,313	34,590	981	-33.5	23,759	674	-39.7	10,346	294	-14.4
Vancouver	2,118,504	27,510	1,299	-30.7	13,259	626	-41.8	8,280	391	-26.8
Calgary	988,873	7,792	788	-27.7	3,653	369	-31.8	3,215	325	-27.5
Edmonton	968,950	9,362	966	-10.8	4,007	414	-19.8	3,716	384	15.2
Ottawa ⁶	862,835	5,344	619	-38.2	3,354	389	-44.4	1,713	199	-27.9
Québec	679,889	5,876	864	-24.3	3,779	556	-37.2	1,603	236	14.2
Winnipeg	674,188	7,120	1,056	-23.8	4,362	647	-29.6	1,509	224	-23.6
Hamilton	659,539	5,655	857	-7.8	3,223	489	-13.4	929	141	-10.0
Average rate			887			499			266	
Population 100,000 to 499,999										
Kitchener	463,222	3,651	788	-28.2	1,911	413	-37.7	1,328	287	-20.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	426,450	3,930	922	-20.9	2,109	495	-22.5	1,219	286	-20.4
London	381,508	3,579	938	1.1	2,528	663	13.5	951	249	-3.8
Halifax	374,624	3,176	848	-31.5	1,939	518	-36.1	847	226	-18.1
Windsor	324,519	2,088	643	-27.6	1,387	427	-21.4	634	195	-27.1
Victoria	321,064	2,296	715	-32.1	1,330	414	-34.9	497	155	-47.8
Gatineau ⁷	271,197	2,591	955	-29.5	1,872	690	-28.3	541	199	-11.1
Saskatoon	234,267	3,933	1,679	-7.5	2,380	1,016	-18.4	776	331	-13.3
Regina	200,417	3,658	1,825	-28.6	2,206	1,101	-40.3	857	428	-11.6
St. John's	176,619	1,487	842	-26.3	975	552	-23.1	391	221	-37.1
Sudbury	159,316	1,520	954	-33.1	781	490	-36.1	434	272	-7.7
Saguenay ⁸	150,447	1,136	755	-46.3	766	509	-52.5	339	225	-28.9
Sherbrooke	146,501	1,729	1,180	-19.1	1,350	921	-17.7	349	238	-24.4
Saint John	146,140	1,024	701	-0.6	717	491	9.2	213	146	-15.1
Trois-Rivières	145,447	1,284	883	-31.8	948	652	-30.1	302	208	-40.2
Thunder Bay	126,239	1,005	796	-30.7	587	465	-23.0	196	155	4.3
Average rate			964			614			239	
Canada	31,413,990	274,894	875	-24.5	162,851	518	-29.2	79,724	254	-17.1

* Breaking and entering.

1. CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Oshawa CMA is excluded due to the incongruity between the police agency boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. Includes B&Es involving other structures such as detached garages, sheds, storage and transportation facilities.

3. Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to better reflect police service boundaries. Population estimates as of July 1st, come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

5. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

7. Gatineau refers to the Quebec portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

8. Formerly known as Chicoutimi-Jonquière.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Persons charged with breaking and entering¹, Canada, 1993-2002

Year	Total persons charged		Adults (18 years and older)			Youths (12 to 17 years)			Males			Females		
	Number	Percent change	Number	Percent change	Percent of total	Number	Percent change	Percent of total	Number	Percent change	Percent of total	Number	Percent change	Percent of total
1993	55,570	-11.8	33,623	-12.0	60.5	21,947	-11.3	39.5	52,310	-11.8	94.1	3,260	-10.8	5.9
1994	50,099	-9.8	30,107	-10.5	60.1	19,992	-8.9	39.9	46,921	-10.3	93.7	3,178	-2.5	6.3
1995	46,719	-6.7	28,065	-6.8	60.1	18,654	-6.7	39.9	43,432	-7.4	93.0	3,287	3.4	7.0
1996	46,805	0.2	28,273	0.7	60.4	18,532	-0.7	39.6	43,484	0.1	92.9	3,321	1.0	7.1
1997	42,875	-8.4	25,783	-8.8	60.1	17,092	-7.8	39.9	39,639	-8.8	92.5	3,236	-2.6	7.5
1998	40,541	-5.4	24,534	-4.8	60.5	16,007	-6.3	39.5	37,505	-5.4	92.5	3,036	-6.2	7.5
1999	35,476	-12.5	22,210	-9.5	62.6	13,266	-17.1	37.4	32,752	-12.7	92.3	2,724	-10.3	7.7
2000	33,864	-4.5	21,333	-3.9	63.0	12,531	-5.5	37.0	31,166	-4.8	92.0	2,698	-1.0	8.0
2001	32,619	-3.7	20,547	-3.7	63.0	12,072	-3.7	37.0	29,897	-4.1	91.7	2,722	0.9	8.3
2002	31,297	-4.1	19,822	-3.5	63.3	11,475	-4.9	36.7	28,616	-4.3	91.4	2,681	-1.5	8.6

1. Reflects the number of persons charged in incidents where the most serious offence was breaking and entering.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Convicted Adult Court cases of breaking and entering by most serious sentence in the case, ten provinces and territories, Canada, 2002/2003

Most serious sentence

Jurisdiction	Total convicted cases	Prison		Conditional sentence		Probation		Fine		Other		Unknown	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	180	124	68.9	16	8.9	40	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prince Edward Island	46	38	82.6	2	4.3	4	8.7	1	2.2	1	2.2	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	162	96	59.3	27	16.7	37	22.8	2	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
New Brunswick	196	95	48.4	45	23.0	52	26.5	4	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Quebec	2,812	1,362	48.4	...	...	1,340	47.7	30	1.1	75	2.7	5	0.2
Ontario	3,414	2,218	65.0	260	7.6	860	25.2	37	1.1	27	0.8	12	0.4
Manitoba	..	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
Saskatchewan	663	309	46.6	89	13.4	163	24.6	12	1.8	7	1.1	83	12.5
Alberta	853	550	64.4	73	8.6	179	21.0	51	6.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
British Columbia	981	645	65.7	147	15.0	162	16.5	4	0.4	3	0.3	20	2.0
Yukon	17	10	58.8	2	11.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	29.4	0	0.0
Northwest Territories	..	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
Nunavut	..	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
Total	9,324	5,447	58.4	661	7.1	2,837	30.4	141	1.5	118	1.3	120	1.3

.. not available for any reference period.

... not applicable.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Convicted Youth Court cases of breaking and entering by most serious sentence in the case, provinces and territories, Canada, 2002/2003

Jurisdiction	Total convicted cases	Most serious sentence									
		Secure custody		Open custody		Probation		Fine		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	182	47	25.8	35	19.2	100	54.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prince Edward Island	26	8	30.8	7	26.9	11	42.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	143	4	2.8	46	32.2	92	64.3	0	0.0	1	0.7
New Brunswick	103	21	20.4	11	10.7	71	68.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Quebec	755	98	13.0	86	11.4	515	68.2	4	0.5	52	6.9
Ontario	2,093	294	14.0	376	18.0	1,387	66.3	7	0.3	29	1.4
Manitoba	270	33	12.2	38	14.1	191	70.7	0	0.0	8	3.0
Saskatchewan	546	98	17.9	104	19.0	313	57.3	1	0.2	30	5.5
Alberta	585	117	20.0	60	10.3	360	61.5	12	2.1	36	6.2
British Columbia	357	34	9.5	65	18.2	248	69.5	0	0.0	10	2.8
Yukon	14	3	21.4	3	21.4	7	50.0	0	0.0	1	7.1
Northwest Territories	85	18	21.2	20	23.5	45	52.9	2	2.4	0	0.0
Nunavut	51	13	25.5	10	19.6	24	47.1	0	0.0	4	7.8
Total	5,210	788	15.1	861	16.5	3,364	64.6	26	0.5	171	3.3

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Residential and business breaking and entering, 30 largest municipal police services, Canada, 2002

Police services	Population ²	Total B&E* incidents ³		Residential B&E		Business B&E	
		Number	Rate ⁴	Number	Rate ⁴	Number	Rate ⁴
Toronto CMA** police services ¹							
Toronto Police	2,614,956	15,293	585	9,467	362	5,521	211
Peel Regional Police	1,044,337	4,967	476	2,671	256	2,035	195
York Regional Police	818,013	4,717	577	2,639	323	1,870	229
Durham Regional Police	530,341	3,348	631	2,153	406	855	161
Halton Regional Police	394,238	1,660	421	783	199	512	130
Montréal CMA police services ¹							
Montréal Police	1,853,489	21,409	1,155	14,355	774	6,849	370
Longueuil Police	382,401	3,744	979	2,790	730	867	227
Laval Police	359,627	2,626	730	1,689	470	897	249
Vancouver CMA police services ¹							
Vancouver Police	580,094	10,092	1,740	5,675	978	3,243	559
Surrey (RCMP***) Police	349,044	4,650	1,332	2,181	625	1,096	314
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	195,383	2,834	1,450	1,235	632	816	418
Richmond (RCMP) Police	168,254	1,807	1,074	838	498	752	447
Other large police services							
Calgary Police	915,453	7,519	821	3,558	389	3,112	340
Ottawa Police	817,375	5,143	629	3,203	392	1,673	205
Edmonton Police	666,739	7,949	1,192	3,371	506	3,196	479
Winnipeg Police	631,620	6,755	1,069	4,187	663	1,416	224
Québec Police	516,740	5,104	988	3,227	624	1,433	277
Hamilton Regional Police	505,941	4,991	986	2,910	575	724	143
Waterloo Regional Police	463,222	3,651	788	1,911	413	1,328	287
Niagara Regional Police	426,450	3,929	921	2,109	495	1,219	286
London Police	346,372	3,272	945	2,342	676	862	249
Gatineau-Métro Police	219,717	2,113	962	1,463	666	474	216
Windsor Police	214,348	1,661	775	1,123	524	498	232
Saskatoon Police	206,922	3,690	1,783	2,299	1,111	672	325
Halifax Regional Police	200,928	2,381	1,185	1,565	779	670	333
Regina Police	184,661	3,456	1,872	2,135	1,156	784	425
St. John's (RNC****) Police	176,619	1,487	842	975	552	391	221
Greater Sudbury Police	159,316	1,520	954	781	490	434	272
Saguenay Police	150,447	1,136	755	766	509	339	225
Sherbrooke Regional Police	146,501	1,729	1,180	1,350	921	349	238

* Breaking and entering.

** Census metropolitan area.

*** Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**** Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

1. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver CMAs are not necessarily represented in their entirety. In some cases, only portions of a police service are included in the CMA.

2. Police service populations were derived from 2002 preliminary postcensal estimates (1996 Census boundaries), Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

3. Includes B&Es involving other structures such as detached garages, sheds, storage and transportation facilities.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

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Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003

by Marnie Wallace

Highlights

- The national crime rate increased by 6% in 2003, the first substantial increase in over a decade. The crime rate had fallen steadily from 1991 to 1999 and been relatively stable from 2000 to 2002.
- The rise in crime was driven by a large increase in counterfeiting in most areas of the country, as well as an increase in property crimes. In addition, increases in relatively minor offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace contributed to the overall jump in crime.
- Crime rates increased in all provinces and territories except Ontario and Yukon, where they remained stable. Double-digit increases were reported in Nunavut (+18%), Northwest Territories (+13%), Saskatchewan (+12%), Nova Scotia (+11%), Manitoba (+11%) and Prince Edward Island (+10%).
- The violent crime rate remained relatively stable in 2003 (-1%), with all violent crime categories recording declines except robbery (+5%) and attempted murder (+4%).
- The homicide rate dropped 7%, continuing the downward trend seen since the mid-1970s. The rate of 1.7 homicides per 100,000 population was the lowest since 1967. There were 548 homicides reported by police in 2003, 34 fewer than in 2002. However, there were 32 more attempted murders in 2003.
- The sexual assault rate declined 5% to its lowest point since 1985.
- The robbery rate increased (+5%) for the first time since 1996. Robberies committed with a firearm increased (+10%) in 2003, and continue to account for about one in seven robberies.
- The property crime rate was up 4% in 2003, the first substantial increase since 1991. The increase was driven by higher rates of break-ins (+2%), motor vehicle thefts (+5%) and thefts under \$5,000 (+4%).
- The impaired driving rate has been generally declining for nearly 20 years, including a 5% drop in 2003. Police reported approximately 77,000 incidents of impaired driving last year.
- Following nearly a decade of increases, the rate of drug crimes in Canada fell by 8% in 2003. This decline was driven by an 18% drop in the rate of cannabis possession incidents, which comprise about half of all drug crimes reported by police. The rate of cannabis cultivation incidents, also known as marijuana grow-ops, increased by 3% in 2003.
- The rate of persons charged with cannabis possession fell by 30% in 2003. This drop may in part be the result of a climate of uncertainty within the law enforcement and criminal justice community given the introduction of legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis, as well as a number of recent court rulings questioning the constitutionality of current laws regarding cannabis possession. It may also be a result of a re-prioritization of police resources towards the larger drug problem, focusing on the more serious offences.
- In 2003, the rate of youths charged by police dropped 15% while the rate of youths cleared otherwise rose 30%, resulting in an overall increase of 5% in the youth crime rate. This is a continuation of the general increase that began in 2000. The violent crime rate (+3%) and property crime rate (+4%) both increased for youth in 2003. It should be noted that any increase in youths cleared otherwise may be partly attributable to increased reporting by police of youths not formally charged, due to the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* provisions on extrajudicial measures, introduced in April 2003.

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Introduction

This report is an examination of 2003 police-reported crime in Canada. Data are presented within the context of both short and long-term trends. The analysis focuses on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Detailed information on incidents and accused persons is also presented where appropriate.

Incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors may influence police-reported crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, social, economic and demographic changes.

Since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention, or that are detected through police investigation, to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey (see methodology section for a description of the survey). The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Reporting to police

To measure the magnitude, nature and impact of criminal activity, there are two main sources of information in Canada: police-reported crime data and victimization surveys. While police-reported data measure crimes known to the police, victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population, whether or not the self-reported victimization was reported to or substantiated by police.

There are many reasons why victims may not report criminal incidents to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), these reasons include: the level of perceived seriousness of the incident; not wanting to involve the police; and, fear of reprisals from the aggressor. However, other factors such as the desire to see the offender punished, social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need to obtain a police report for insurance purposes, may encourage people to report certain types of criminal offences to police.¹

The failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of crime in official police statistics. Further, the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes may affect crime rates. For example, greater awareness by the public, police and prosecutors in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime may lower society's tolerance for these behaviours, which in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police as well as encourage police to lay charges. The most recent version of the GSS Victimization Survey is underway in 2004, and results will be available in 2005.

Reporting by police to the UCR Survey

Crimes reported to the UCR Survey by police agencies are subject to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada and police agencies work together on an ongoing basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting of data. Once the data have been processed and edited at Statistics Canada, police services are required to "sign-off" on the final data before it is published.

1. Besserer, S and Trainor, C., "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 1999", *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 10, p. 11 & 12, 2000.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing offence, the number of incidents reported to police and by police will likely increase.

For certain crimes, the number of offences reported is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution and drug offences are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or "proactive" policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, changes in police enforcement practices, such as special operations to target certain types of crimes, will be reflected in official crime statistics. For example, the recent court rulings concerning the constitutionality of current laws regarding the possession of small amounts of cannabis may have resulted in police laying significantly fewer charges for cannabis possession in 2003. Another example is the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in April 2003. For further information on the introduction of this new legislation, see the section on Youth Crime. Where possible, explanations for these types of situations are included throughout this report.

Social, economic and demographic factors affecting the crime rate

In addition to various legislative changes, social, demographic and economic trends have been associated with the general downward trend in the crime rate over the 1990s both in Canada and the United States.

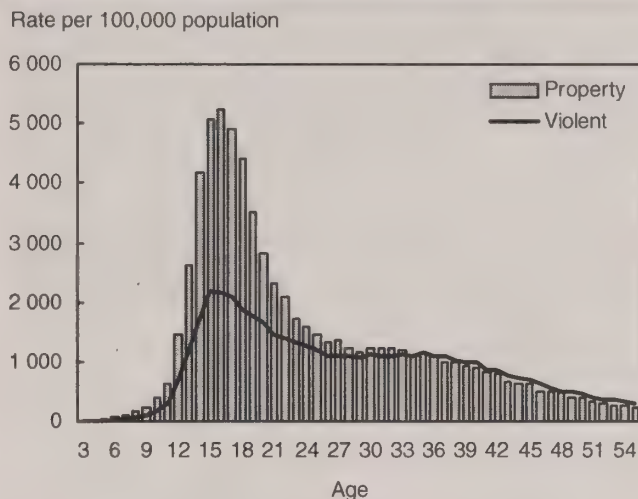
In terms of demographics, persons aged 15 to 24 in Canada have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups. Generally, rates of offending decrease with age after the age of 25 (Figure 1). In 2003, those aged 15 to 24 represented 14% of the total population while accounting for 45% of those accused of property crimes and 32% of persons accused of violent crimes.

Significant changes to the demographic composition of the population over time may have some effect on the crime rate. Canada's "baby boom" occurred between 1947 and 1966. As baby-boomers aged and moved into adulthood, those 35 years of age and older steadily increased their share of the population while the group aged 15-24 declined. Figure 2 shows the trends in the relative size of the 15 to 24 age group and the crime rate between 1962 and 2003. While there are some parallels, there are clearly other factors having an influence on crime.

Unemployment and measures of poverty and income inequality are also frequently cited as risk factors of criminal activity. Fluctuations in other social or economic conditions may interact with demographic shifts to affect crime rates as well. For instance, demographers throughout the past three decades, and more recently Ouimet², contended that a very large cohort of young people born in Canada during the 1960s had higher levels of criminal involvement than any other, due to more serious difficulties integrating into the job market during the recession in the early 1980s.

Figure 1

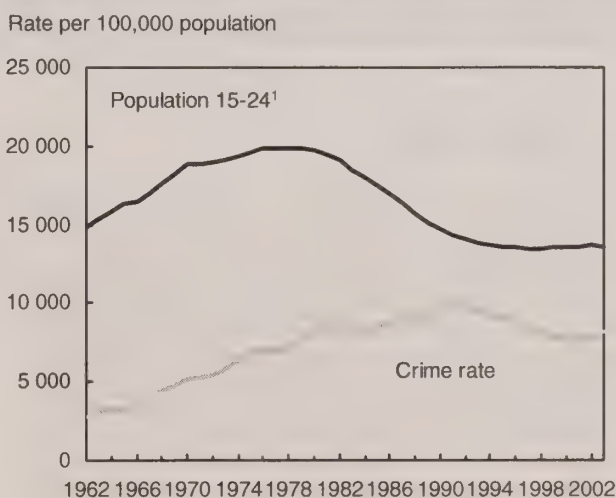
Persons accused of property crimes and violent crimes by age, Canada, 2003



Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 2

Crime rate and population aged 15-24, Canada, 1962 to 2003



1. This line represents the number of 15-24 year olds expressed as a rate per 100,000 population and not the crime rate of this age group.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003.

2. Ouimet, M. (2002) Explaining the American and Canadian crime "drop" in the 1990s, *Canadian Journal of Criminology* 44 (1) :33-50.

A more-detailed analysis of the impact of these and other socio-economic factors on the crime rate will be released in a report in Fall 2004.

Text Box 1: Key terminology and definitions

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. Except for robbery, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and over time. The "crime rate" represents all *Criminal Code* incidents excluding traffic violations and other federal statutes, such as drug offences.

Accused persons

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime, and against whom enough evidence exists to lay a charge, regardless of whether or not they have been formally charged with an offence.

Persons cleared by charge

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

Persons cleared otherwise

This term refers to people who have not been formally charged by police, though there is sufficient evidence for the police to do so. This could occur for a number of reasons: the police used extrajudicial measures (see Youth Crime section), the police may have used discretion and decided not to lay a charge, the complainant did not want police to lay a charge or the accused was involved in other incidents in which one or more charges were laid.

For more information on the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report, and *Canadian Crime Statistics 2002*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-205, 2003.

and an increase in property crimes. Most categories of property crimes increased in 2003. Notable increases were also seen in other large-volume minor offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace. Some forces have attributed the increase in minor offences to new reporting procedures introduced in 2003 which make it easier for the public to report minor crimes to the police.

The overall increase followed a period of general decline seen throughout the 1990s and the relative stability from 2000 to 2002 (Table 2). The crime rate in 2003 was 15% lower than a decade ago, but 14% higher than 25 years ago.

The violent crime rate remained relatively stable (-1%) in 2003. However, both the property crime rate and the rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences increased, up 4% and 10% respectively.

International Trends

While Canada reported a stable rate of violent crime in 2003, preliminary data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicated that the number of violent crimes in the United States declined (-3%), driven by fewer incidents of aggravated assault than in the previous year³. The number of victims recorded by the Australian police declined in most offence categories in 2003⁴, including a 7% decline in the robbery rate and a 5% decline in homicides. Only England and Wales reported an increase in its police reported violent crime (+13%) in October to December 2003, compared with the same period in the previous year⁵.

While police in Canada reported a 4% increase in the rate of property crimes, the number of property crimes recorded in the United States remained stable. Australian police recorded fewer victims of property crimes in 2003 than in 2002, including a 14% drop in motor vehicle thefts and a 12% drop in unlawful entry. Police reported property crime in England and Wales also declined, down 2%.

Crime up in most provinces and territories

All the provinces and territories reported an increase in crime rates in 2003, with the exception of Ontario and Yukon which remained relatively stable. Double-digit increases were recorded in Nunavut (+18%), Northwest Territories (+13%), Saskatchewan (+12%), Nova Scotia (+11%), Manitoba (+11%) and Prince Edward Island (+10%).

Looking at a longer time period, the largest increase in crime rates over the past decade has been reported by Saskatchewan, up 41% compared to 1993. Increases over this time period were also reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (+9%), Prince Edward Island (+7%) and Manitoba (+6%). The

2003 Crime Trends

In 2003, there were more than 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences) reported to police. Of these, 12% were violent crimes, 51% were property crimes, and 37% were "other" *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief, counterfeiting, disturbing the peace and bail violations (Table 1). Twenty-five years ago the breakdown was quite different, with violent crimes accounting for 8% of all *Criminal Code* incidents, property crimes accounting for 64%, and "other" *Criminal Code* offences accounting for 28%.

In addition, there were nearly 116,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (two-thirds were impaired driving offences), almost 86,000 drug incidents, and 36,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, police reported 2.8 million criminal incidents in 2003.

First substantial increase in crime in over a decade

The crime rate increased 6% in 2003, to 8,132 incidents per 100,000 population, driven by a 72% increase in counterfeiting

3. Federal Bureau of Investigation National Press Office. 2004. Preliminary Crime Statistics for 2003. www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel04/ucrpelim2003.htm. It should be noted that these data refer to the number of criminal incidents coming to the attention of police rather than the rate.
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2004. Recorded Crime- Victims, Australia. Depending on the type of offence, a victim may be a person, a premise, an organization, or a motor vehicle.
5. Christophersen, Olivia, Katharine Thorpe and Anna Upson. April, 2004. Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2003. Home Office, England. The percentage change figures from this report are based on the actual numbers of incidents and not rates.

remaining six provinces have all seen declines in their crime rates over the last 10 years. The largest were recorded by Ontario and British Columbia, down 32% and 14% respectively.

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). Historically, crime rates have increased from East to West. However, in recent years that pattern has begun to change, with rates in the Atlantic Provinces now generally surpassing those in Ontario and Quebec. Only Newfoundland and Labrador had a rate lower than Quebec, but still higher than Ontario. In 2003, the crime rate in Alberta was lower than the rates in other Western provinces for the eleventh consecutive year.

Provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 6,097 incidents per 100,000 population in Ontario to a high of 15,375 in Saskatchewan. This is the first time since data collection began in 1962 that Ontario has had the lowest crime rate of all the provinces. The territories reported crime rates that were nearly, or more than, double those of any of the provinces.

Crime in Census Metropolitan Areas

Nearly half (47%) of all offences were reported by police services in the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁶ in Canada, which are home to 50% of the Canadian population. The crime rate increased in seven of these nine large CMAs in 2003, while rates in two remained stable (Toronto and Hamilton). The largest increases were reported by Montréal (+11%), Winnipeg (+10%) and Edmonton (+10%). The increase in Montréal's crime rate was primarily due to a large increase in counterfeiting⁷. Of those CMAs reporting increases, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa were the only ones to report an increase in all major categories of crime.

Similar to the larger CMAs, virtually all of the 18 smaller CMAs reported increases in the crime rate. The largest increases were recorded by Saskatoon (+16%), Trois-Rivières (+10%) and Sudbury (+9%). The only substantial declines were reported in St. John's and Sherbrooke (both down 6%).

Among all 27 CMAs⁸, the lowest crime rate was reported by Saguenay, followed by Québec, Toronto and Trois-Rivières. This is the third consecutive year that Saguenay has reported the lowest crime rate. Saskatoon reported the highest crime rate, followed closely by Regina, both in excess of 15,000 incidents per 100,000 population. The next highest rates were recorded in Abbotsford, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton and Victoria, each reporting rates in excess of 10,000 incidents per 100,000 population.

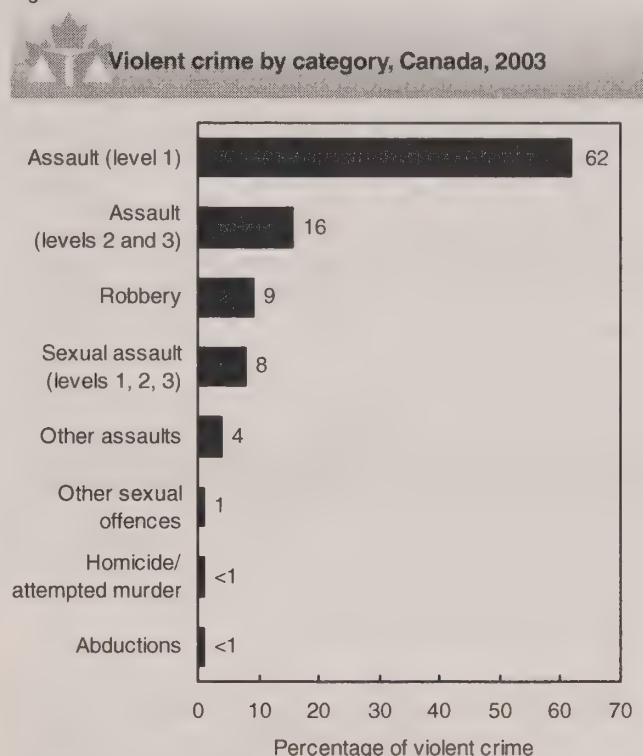
In many instances, a single CMA will comprise a number of individual police services. Examining specific police services within CMA boundaries provides a clearer picture of how and where crime rates are changing (Table 6). For example, within the Toronto CMA, the crime rate increased in areas policed by Durham Regional Police (+10%), Halton Regional Police (+8%) and York Regional Police (+6%), while decreasing for Peel Regional Police (-6%) and remaining stable for Toronto Police⁹ (-0.4%).

Violent Crime

Violent crime relatively stable since 1999

There were more than 300,000 violent crimes reported by police in 2003. This translates to a rate of 963 violent incidents per 100,000 population. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 3). Three out of every five violent incidents are classified as level 1 assault.

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

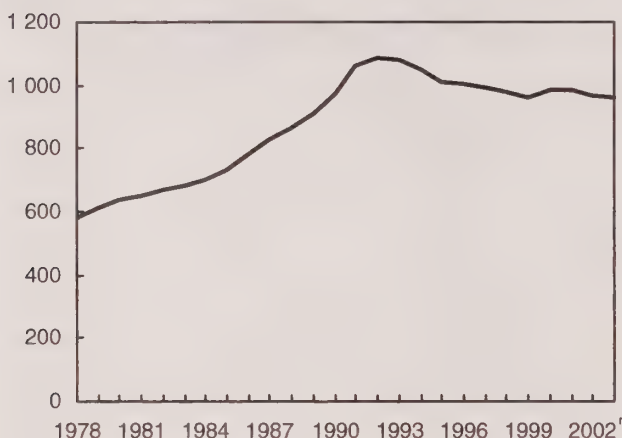
- A census metropolitan area refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been modified slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single census metropolitan area.
- While a large increase in the number of incidents was reported for the city of Montréal, it was likely the subject of over-reporting on behalf of increases in other areas within the province, due to the location of a number of bank data centres centralized within the city's core. It should be noted, however, that the increase in counterfeit currency within Montréal was comparable to the national increase.
- The Oshawa census metropolitan area is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
- Toronto Police implemented a new records management system in September. As the transition had a short-term impact on data quality, data for September to December 2003 were estimated from 2002 data for the same period.

The rate of violent crime has been generally declining slightly (-11%) over the past decade, after having increased steadily through most of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s (figure 4). In 2003, the total violent crime rate remained relatively stable. All violent crime categories recorded declines, except robbery (+5%) and attempted murder (+4%). The 2003 violent crime rate was 11% lower than its near-peak in 1993, but still 66% higher than 25 years ago.

Figure 4



Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

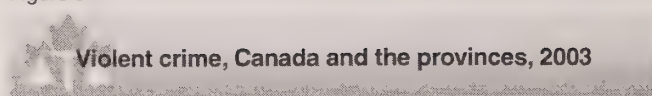
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate of violent crime of all the provinces for the fifth consecutive year. At 2,057 violent incidents per 100,000 population, Saskatchewan's rate was about 25% higher than the next highest province, Manitoba (figure 5). For the ninth straight year, Quebec reported the lowest violent crime rate (713). The next lowest rate was reported by Ontario (784) for the second year in a row.

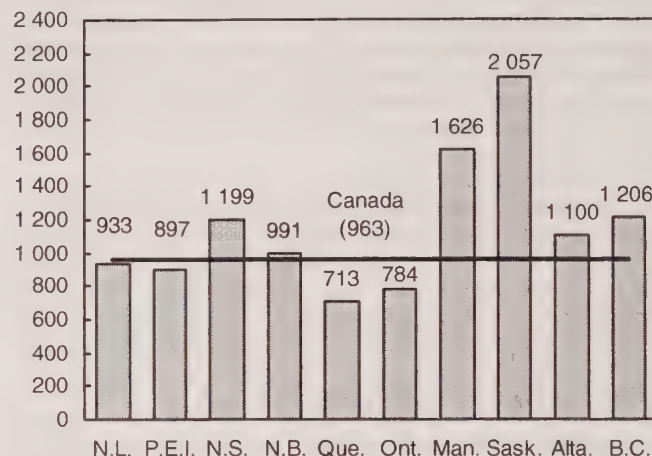
The violent crime rate was relatively stable in all provinces, except for a 5% decline in Ontario and substantial increases in Saskatchewan (+11%) and Nova Scotia (+7%). Ontario recorded a 6% decline in assaults, while Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia both reported increases for this large-volume offence, up 12% and 9% respectively.

Most of the nine largest CMAs reported lower violent crime rates in 2003 than in 2002. The largest declines occurred in Hamilton (-6%), Toronto (-6%) and Winnipeg (-5%), all driven by lower rates of assault than in the previous year. The largest increase in violent crime rates were reported by Ottawa (+4%) and Calgary (+4%), and were driven by increased rates of assault and robbery.

Figure 5



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Among the smaller CMAs, about half reported higher rates of violent crime in 2003 than in the previous year. The most substantial increase was recorded by Sherbrooke (+19%), though it still has one of the lowest violent crime rates among the CMAs. Of the CMAs experiencing decreased violent crime rates, the largest drops occurred in Sudbury (-17%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (-16%).

Saskatoon reported the highest violent crime rate (1,718 incidents per 100,000 population) of all 27 CMAs, followed by Regina (1,578) and Halifax (1,343). This is the fourth consecutive year that Saskatoon and Regina have reported the two highest rates of violent crime, but the first year that Halifax has been in the top three. The lowest violent crime rates were recorded by Québec (489), Saguenay (509), Trois-Rivières (541) and Kitchener (564).

Homicide rate lowest since 1967

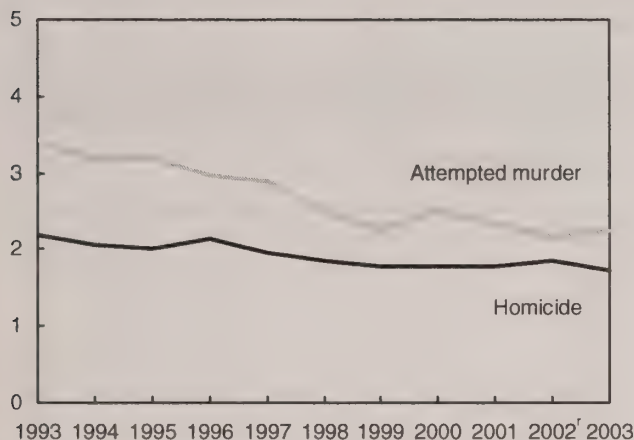
Homicide includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. In 2003, there were 548 homicides and 710 attempted murders reported by police. Together these crimes account for less than half of one percent of all violent crimes.

The homicide rate continued its downward trend seen since the mid-1970s. The rate decreased by 7% in 2003, to stand at a rate of 1.7 incidents per 100,000 population (Figure 6). This is the lowest rate of homicides in Canada since 1967. However, the rate of attempted murders increased by 4% in 2003.

Figure 6

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1993 to 2003¹

Rate per 100,000 population

^r revised

1. Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002 and 6 in 2003. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The drop in the number of homicides at the national level (-34) was driven by large decreases in British Columbia¹⁰ (from 126 homicides in 2002 to 93 in 2003) and Quebec (from 118 homicides in 2002 to 100 in 2003). Of the three provinces reporting an increase in homicides in 2003, Saskatchewan had the largest increase, from 27 homicides in 2002 to 41 in 2003.

Among the provinces, the highest homicide rate was reported by Saskatchewan (4.1 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Manitoba (3.7). This is the highest homicide rate in Saskatchewan since 1977. The four lowest rates were reported in the four Atlantic Provinces. The homicide rates in Nova Scotia (0.9) and Quebec (1.3) were the lowest that they have been in over 25 years.

Among the nine largest CMAs, the highest homicide rate was reported by Winnipeg (2.6 incidents per 100,000 population), though reporting 5 fewer homicides than in the previous year. The next highest rates were reported by Edmonton (2.2), Vancouver¹¹ (2.1) and Toronto (1.9). The lowest homicide rates among the largest CMAs occurred in Québec (0.4) and Calgary (1.1). Montréal and Québec both reported their lowest rates since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981.

The highest homicide rates in the country were reported by some of the smaller CMAs, with Abbotsford (8 homicides) and Regina (10 homicides) both reporting 5.1 homicides per 100,000 population. It should be noted that, due to small numbers and populations, homicide rates are subject to fluctuations from year to year. Only three CMAs reported no homicides in 2003: Saguenay, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières.

Sexual assault rate lowest since 1985

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 (sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and level 3 (sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Among the more than 23,000 sexual assaults reported by police in 2003, 98% were classified as level 1.

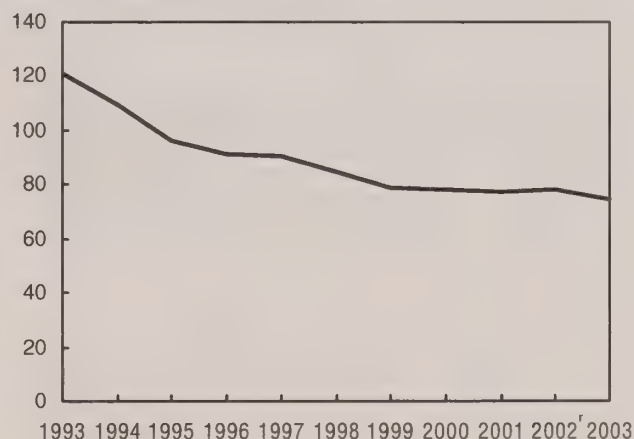
The rate of sexual assaults in Canada peaked in the early 1990s, and then generally declined, reaching a period of stability from 1999 to 2002 before dropping by 5% in 2003. (Figure 7). The rate in 2003 (74 incidents per 100,000 population) was 39% lower than a decade ago and is at its lowest level since 1985. However, although the numbers are relatively small (180 incidents), the rate of level 3 sexual assaults increased 17% in 2003, the first increase in nearly a decade.

All three levels of sexual assault have declined over the past decade. The rate of level 1 assaults is down 38%, the rate of level 2 assaults is down 62%, and the rate of level 3 assaults is down 54% from 1993.

Figure 7

Rate of sexual assaults, Canada, 1993 to 2003

Rate per 100,000 population

^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

10. Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002, and a further 6 in 2003. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

11. See note 10.

Quebec was the only province to report an increase (+4%) in the rate of sexual assaults in 2003. Even with this increase, Quebec reported the lowest rate (58) in Canada, followed by Ontario (63). Of the provinces reporting decreases, New Brunswick had the largest decline (-14%), followed by Newfoundland and Labrador (-10%), Ontario (-9%) and Alberta (-9%).

Three of the 27 CMAs reported a drop in sexual assault rates of more than 20%: London (-32%), Sudbury (-32%) and St. Catharines (-21%). Corresponding to the increased sexual assault rate in the province of Quebec, the largest increases among the CMAs were seen in Trois-Rivières (+54%), Sherbrooke (+38%) and Saguenay (+22%). However, these rates remain relatively low in comparison to the other CMAs.

The highest sexual assault rates among the CMAs were seen in Saskatoon (118 incidents per 100,000 population) and Winnipeg (107). The lowest rates were recorded by Ottawa and London (both with 41 incidents per 100,000 population). This is the second year in a row that Ottawa has reported the lowest rate of sexual assaults and Saskatoon the highest.

Assaults remain stable

In 2003, police reported more than 236,000 incidents of assault. The rate (746 incidents per 100,000 population) remained stable (-1%) compared to 2002 and stands about 4% lower than a decade ago.

Assaults represent approximately 4 out of every 5 violent crimes. They are classified into three main categories: common assault (level 1 assault); assault with a weapon, or causing bodily harm (level 2 assault); and, aggravated assault (level 3 assault). There were a further 12,000 "other" assaults reported in 2003, such as assault against a police officer and unlawfully causing bodily harm.

Common assaults account for 4 out of every 5 assaults, and 3 out of every 5 violent crimes. Behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats are included in this category. The rate of common assault dropped 1% in 2003. The rate of "other" assaults also declined (-2%), while rates of assault with a weapon and aggravated assault increased, up 1% and 4% respectively.

First increase in robberies since 1996

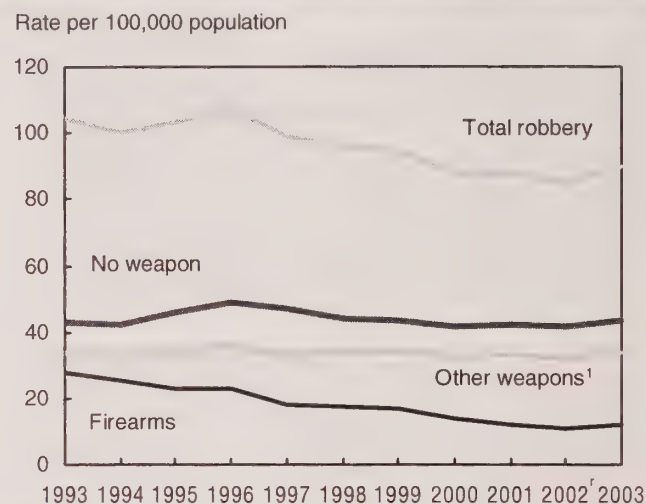
In 2003, the rate of robberies in Canada increased (+5%) for the first time since 1996. The rate of robberies has been generally declining since 1991, when it reached a peak of 119 incidents per 100,000 population. The 2003 rate of 90 is 24% lower than that peak but 10% higher than twenty-five years ago.

Nearly half of the over 28,000 robbery incidents reported by police in 2003 were committed without a weapon. A further 14% were committed with a firearm, and the remaining 38% with a weapon other than a firearm. Handguns are the most popular type of firearm present during robberies, accounting for approximately four out of every five robberies committed with a firearm in 2003. Knives accounted for nearly three out of every five robberies committed with a weapon other than a firearm in 2003.

The rate of firearm robbery increased 10% from the previous year, the first increase since 1991 (Figure 8). However, the 2003 rate was still about 50% lower than in 1993. The rates of robberies committed without a weapon and with a weapon other than a firearm were both up 5% from 2002.

Figure 8

Robbery incidents by type, Canada, 1993 to 2003



r revised

1. Knives are the most common type of "other" weapon present during a robbery.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Of the provinces reporting increased robbery rates in 2003, the largest were reported in Saskatchewan (+33%), Alberta (+21%) and Nova Scotia (+11%). The largest decline in robbery rates among the provinces in 2003 was recorded by Newfoundland and Labrador (-20%).

Robbery tends to be an offence for which there is a wide range in rates among the CMAs. In 2003, robbery rates ranged from 235 incidents per 100,000 population in Winnipeg to 18 in Saguenay.

Criminal harassment rate stable

The *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment (commonly referred to as stalking) as repeatedly following or communicating with someone, watching that person's residence or place of business, or engaging in threatening conduct directed at that person or a member of their family. Data on criminal harassment are available only from the subset of police services providing data to the Incident-Based (UCR2) Survey. In order to permit trend analysis, a separate UCR2 Trend Database has been created for respondents who have been reporting incident-based data since 1998 (see Methodology).

Although the 2003 rate¹² was unchanged from the previous year, the rate of criminal harassment incidents has been generally increasing over the past five years and was 26% higher than in 1998.

Three-quarters (76%) of all criminal harassment victims in 2003 were female, and 86% of all accused were male. Of all female victims, 31% were harassed by ex-spouses, 22% by close friends (which includes ex-boyfriends), 22% by casual acquaintances, 12% by strangers, 3% by current spouses and 11% by all others.

The majority of persons accused of stalking male victims were also male (7 in 10). Male victims were most commonly harassed by casual acquaintances (35%), followed by close friends (18%), strangers (15%), ex-spouses (14%), current spouses (1%) and all others (18%).

Property Crime

First substantial increase in property crime since 1991

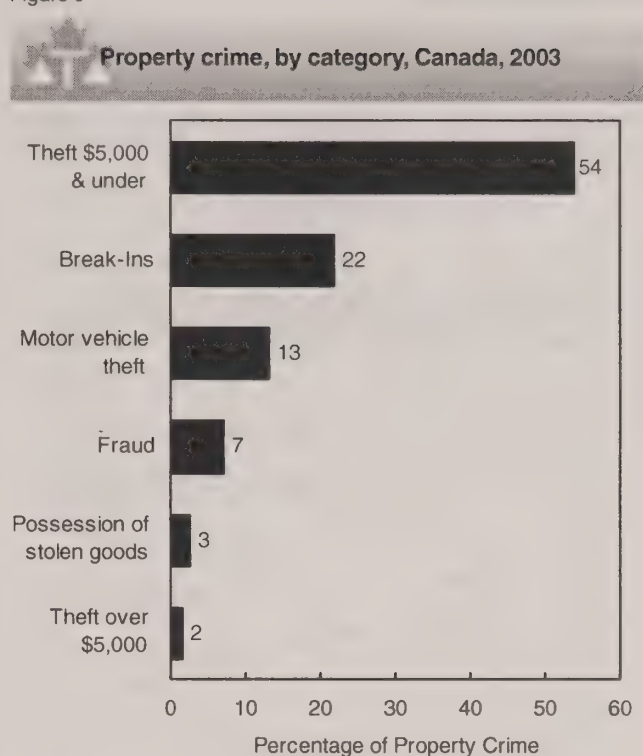
Theft, breaking and entering, motor vehicle thefts and fraud are among the most frequently reported property crimes (Figure 9). Thefts, excluding thefts of motor vehicles, account for more than half of all property crimes. After having reached an almost 20 year low in 2002, the property crime rate increased 4% in 2003, the first substantial rise in over a decade. The property crime rate in 2003 was still 26% lower than ten years ago. The increase in property crimes was driven by increases in the rate of thefts under \$5,000, motor vehicle thefts and break-ins.

Among the provinces, property crime rates tend to be lower in the East than in the West, and ranged in 2003 from 2,611 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 6,922 in British Columbia (Figure 10). This is the fifteenth consecutive year that Newfoundland and Labrador has reported the lowest property crime rate while British Columbia has reported the highest rate for over 25 years.

Nearly all of the provinces reported increased property crime rates in 2003, with the largest jumps being recorded in Saskatchewan (+14%) and Manitoba (+12%). Only Quebec reported a decline (-2%), while Ontario's rate remained virtually unchanged.

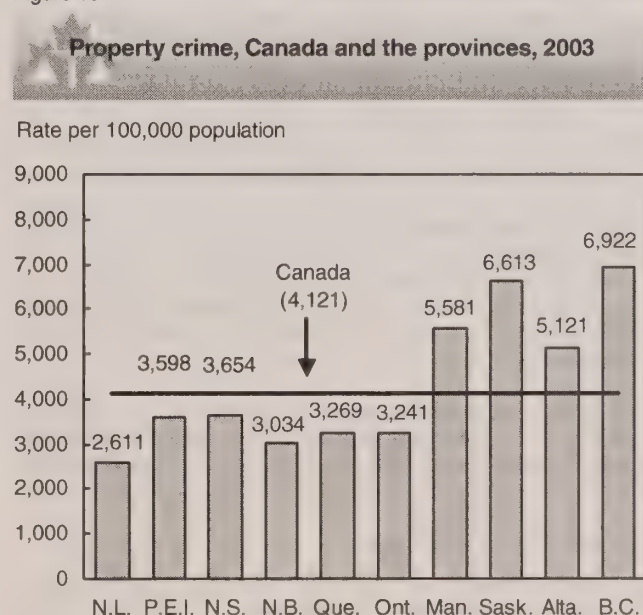
Most of the nine largest CMAs reported relatively stable property crime rates in 2003, except for large increases in Winnipeg (+15%) and Edmonton (+13%). Both of these CMAs recorded substantial increases in break-ins, motor vehicles thefts and other thefts. Among the smaller CMAs, Saskatoon reported a 25% increase in property crime, followed by Sudbury (+14%) and Thunder Bay (+13%).

Figure 9



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 10



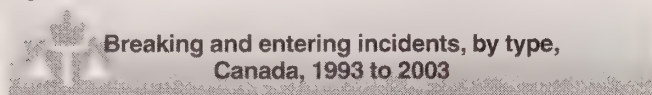
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

12. Data on the rate of criminal harassment incidents represent all incidents of criminal harassment, regardless of whether or not it was the most serious offence committed in an incident with multiple offences. Data on the relationship of the accused to the victim represent only incidents in which criminal harassment was the most serious violation against that victim.

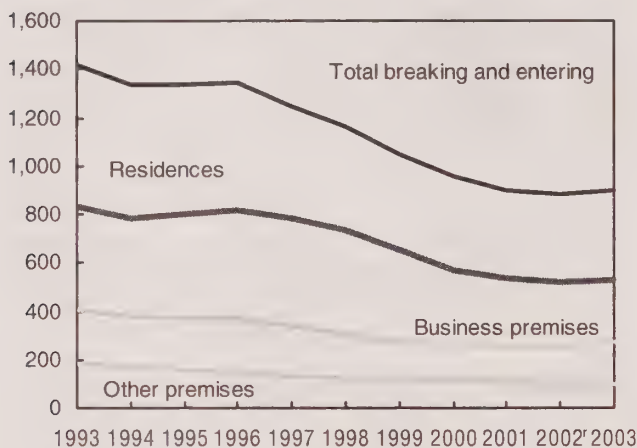
Break-ins increase

With more than 284,000 incidents reported by police in 2003, the rate of break-ins in Canada recorded its first increase in over a decade, up 2% (Figure 11). The 2003 rate was 37% lower than the rate both ten and twenty years ago. Break-ins represent the third-largest offence category, accounting for over 1 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents.

Figure 11



Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The majority of break-ins occurred in private residences (58%), followed by businesses (30%) and all other locations (11%). The rate of break-ins at all locations increased in 2003, with break-ins at businesses up 6%, residential break-ins up 1%, and break-ins at "other" locations up 2%.

Eight provinces reported increased rates of break-ins in 2003, with the largest occurring in Nova Scotia, up 16% from the previous year. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador also reported double-digit increases. Only Quebec reported a notable decline (-5%).

Provincially, rates of break-ins ranged from 667 incidents per 100,000 population in Ontario to 1,737 in Saskatchewan. This is the first year Ontario has reported the lowest rate of break-ins.

Vehicle thefts increase

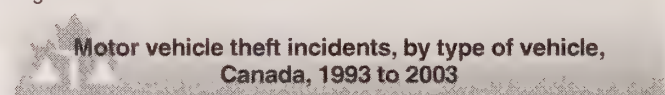
The rate of motor vehicle thefts increased (+5%) in 2003, returning to the same level recorded in 2001. The motor vehicle theft rate increased steadily from 1984 to 1996, including double-digit increases from 1989 to 1991, and in 1996. The rate dropped slightly from 1996 to 2000, and has fluctuated since then.

It should be noted that although the UCR Survey generally includes both attempted and completed incidents for all offence categories, motor vehicle theft is the only offence for which attempts make up a notable proportion of all incidents. In 2003, approximately 15% of the 171,000 motor vehicle theft incidents reported by police were attempts rather than completed thefts.

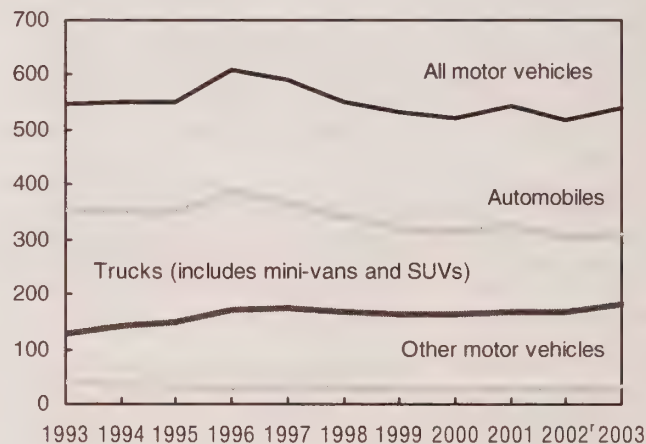
Every province reported an increase in motor vehicle theft rates, except Quebec and Ontario which remained stable. The largest increase was reported by Alberta (+15%), primarily due to a 22% increase in Edmonton. Large increases were also reported in Saskatchewan (+12%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+12%), New Brunswick (+12%) and Prince Edward Island (+11%).

Cars continued to be the most common type of vehicle stolen, accounting for 57% of all vehicle thefts in 2003 (Figure 12). Trucks, including mini vans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs), accounted for a further 34% of stolen vehicles, while the remaining 9% included motorcycles, construction equipment and all other motor vehicles. The rate of truck thefts increased 8% from the previous year compared to a 2% increase in the rate of car thefts. Compared to a decade ago, the rate of truck thefts is up 42%, whereas the rate of car thefts is down 12%. This is primarily due to an increase in the popularity of vans and SUVs among consumers and also as a target for theft.

Figure 12



Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Vehicle theft rates among the CMAs ranged from 161 incidents per 100,000 population in St. John's to 1,580 in Abbotsford. Following a decline of more than 50% last year, Thunder Bay's vehicle theft rate jumped up by 37% in 2003. An equally large increase was recorded by Saskatoon. In addition to

Edmonton, the other CMAs with increases over 20% were Québec and Saint John.

Of the CMAs reporting declines in 2003, the largest were reported by Kingston (-38%), Ottawa (-16%) and Kitchener (-15%).

More than half of all property crimes are thefts

There were more than 720,000 thefts (excluding motor vehicle thefts and theft of property during a break-in) in 2003. Theft continued to account for 55% of all property crimes, and 28% of all *Criminal Code* offences. In 2003 the theft rate was 4% higher than the previous year.

The largest increase in theft rates was recorded by Manitoba (+18%) and was driven by a 21% jump in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg Police Service attributed part of this increase to the implementation of a telephone reporting system which has resulted in more minor offences, such as thefts and mischief, coming to the attention of police¹³.

Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 38% of all thefts in 2003. Shoplifting accounted for 12% of theft incidents and theft of bicycles a further 9%. The remaining 42% of thefts fell into the "other" category. The most common items in this category are personal accessories, radios or televisions, money and identification¹⁴.

Other *Criminal Code* Incidents

Criminal Code incidents that are classified as neither property crimes nor violent crimes fall into the category of "Other *Criminal Code*" offences. In 2003, more than 960,000 incidents, or 37% of all *Criminal Code* incidents, were in this category (Figure 13). Together these crimes increased by 10% in 2003. This rise was a result of increases in the rates of the three largest volume offences in this category: mischief (+6%), counterfeiting currency (+72%) and disturbing the peace (+15%).

Increase in rate of mischief offences

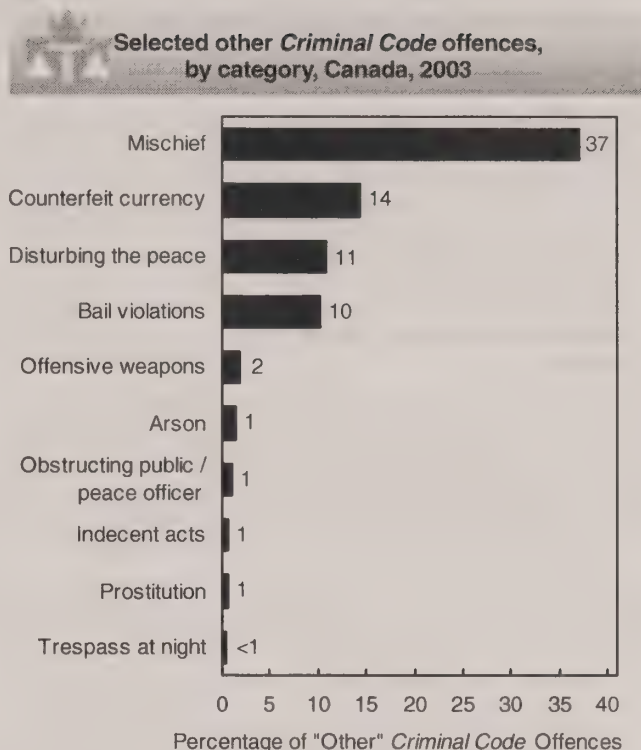
With more than 356,000 incidents reported in 2003, mischief offences accounted for 37% of Other *Criminal Code* offences, and 14% of all *Criminal Code* offences. After decreasing steadily between 1993 and 1999, the rate of mischief offences increased in 2000 and remained relatively stable until experiencing a 6% increase in 2003. The rate in 2003 was 22% lower than a decade ago.

All of the provinces reported increased rates of mischief in 2003, except for Ontario and Quebec which remained relatively stable. The largest increases were reported by Nova Scotia (+17%), Saskatchewan (+17%) and Manitoba (+13%). Rates of mischief ranged from 677 incidents per 100,000 population in Quebec to 2,585 in Manitoba.

Large increase in counterfeiting

The over 138,000 counterfeiting incidents reported by police represented 14% of all Other *Criminal Code* incidents in 2003. This proportion has increased tenfold over the past decade,

Figure 13



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

having accounted for only 1.5% of Other *Criminal Code* offences in 1993. Counterfeiting currency incidents now represent 5% of all *Criminal Code* offences, making it the sixth largest volume crime in Canada. The rate of counterfeiting incidents reported by police increased 72% over the previous year.

The Bank of Canada's *Annual Report* for 2003 indicated that there were more than twice as many counterfeit notes detected in circulation in 2003 than in the previous year¹⁵. Some of this increase may be attributable to an increase in the detection of counterfeit currency rather than solely an increase in counterfeiting activity. In 2003, the Bank of Canada expanded its counterfeit-detection training activities with retailers and other groups. The *Annual Report* further indicated that the \$10 and \$20 denominations were the most frequently counterfeited in 2003. In response to the increasing rates of counterfeiting currency in recent years, the Bank of Canada has greatly increased its efforts to enhance bank note security, and will be introducing a number of new anti-counterfeiting features into the notes it will be issuing in 2004.

13. Winnipeg Police Service source, June 2, 2004.

14. Data from UCR2 Survey. For more information on this version of the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section.

15. Bank of Canada. 2004. *Annual Report*, 2003.

Rates of counterfeiting currency tripled in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2003, nearly doubled in Ontario and were up over 80% in Quebec and British Columbia. Only one province, Prince Edward Island, reported a decrease (-14%) in 2003.

Even with its 200% increase, Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest rate of counterfeiting currency (48 incidents per 100,000 population) among the provinces in 2003. The next lowest rates were recorded by Manitoba (69) and New Brunswick (104). Quebec recorded the highest rate (1,001), which was more than two and a half times the next highest rate (British Columbia, 400).

Disturbing the peace incidents continue to increase

The rate of disturbing the peace incidents increased by 15% in 2003. With the exception of a slight decline in 2002, the rate of disturbing the peace incidents has been increasing steadily since hitting an almost 20-year low in 1995. The nearly 104,000 incidents reported by police in 2003 represented one in every ten Other *Criminal Code* incidents.

Every province except Ontario reported an increase in the rate of disturbing the peace incidents in 2003. The largest increases were reported by Manitoba (+55%), New Brunswick (+47%) and Alberta (+25%).

It should be noted that some of this increase may be due to a number of police services implementing new reporting systems in recent years which make it easier for the public to report minor offences.

Administration of justice offences

There were more than 103,000 administration of justice offences reported in 2003. These include such offences as judicial interim release violations (also referred to as bail violations), failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a condition of undertaking or recognizance, a summons, or an appearance notice and escaping custody. Together, these accounted for 11% of all Other *Criminal Code* offences. The large volume of these offences creates a strain on the entire justice system by increasing remand rates and creating backlogs in the court system.

Increase in offensive weapons

In 2003, police reported nearly 17,000 *Criminal Code* offensive weapons offences. This translates to a rate of 54 incidents per 100,000 population, up 5% from the previous year.

Illegal possession of a weapon accounted for 59% of weapons-related offences in 2003. Illegal possession includes having an unregistered firearm or failing to possess a license to possess a firearm. A further 12% of weapons-related offences fell into the illegal firearms usage category (e.g. using a firearm in the commission of an offence or pointing a firearm), and 28% into the "other" weapons offences category (e.g. careless use, illegal destruction of a firearm, tampering with serial numbers).

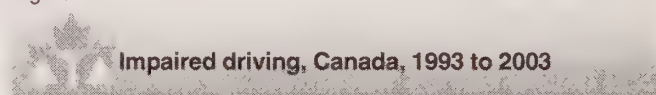
Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Police reported nearly 116,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents in 2003. The rate of 366 incidents per 100,000 population was 2% lower than the previous year. Impaired driving incidents accounted for two-thirds of all *Criminal Code* traffic incidents. A further 20% of incidents were failures to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident, and the final 14% were incidents of dangerous driving and driving while prohibited.

Impaired driving continues to decline

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. The rate of impaired driving in Canada has been generally declining for nearly 20 years, including a 5% drop in 2003 (Figure 14). Police reported more than 77,000 incidents of impaired driving in 2003, down more than 40% over the past decade. The number of impaired driving incidents includes instances of police issuing roadside suspensions, rather than laying a formal charge, to drivers found to have a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit.

Figure 14



Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

In 2001 the RCMP began reporting incidents of impaired driving in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, all other police services began reporting this way as well.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The rate of impaired driving offences can be quite sensitive to changes in enforcement policies and practices such as the presence of roadside spot checks and increased police patrols during particular time periods.

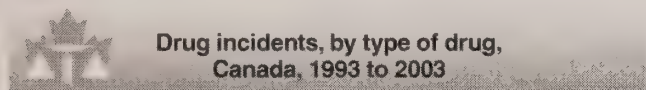
Among the provinces, the highest rate of impaired driving was reported by Saskatchewan (554 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Prince Edward Island (441). Saskatchewan has reported the highest rate of impaired driving for twelve consecutive years. The lowest rate of impaired driving was recorded by Ontario (156), followed by Newfoundland and Labrador (183).

Prince Edward Island reported the largest increase in impaired driving rates among the provinces, up 11% from the previous year. The largest declines were reported in New Brunswick (-11%) and Ontario (-9%).

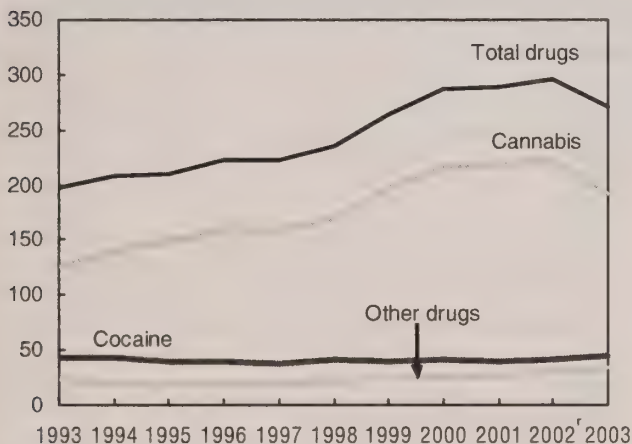
First decrease in drug crimes since 1993

Following nearly a decade of increases, the rate of drug crimes in Canada fell by 8% in 2003 (Figure 15). A large drop in cannabis offences was mainly responsible for this decline. Police reported nearly 86,000 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA).

Figure 15



Rate per 100,000 population



r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Cannabis offences accounted for 7 out of every 10 drug crimes in 2003, and were down 14% from the previous year. This decline was driven by an 18% decrease in the rate of cannabis possession in 2003. Possession of cannabis accounts for 7 out of every 10 cannabis offences, and nearly half (48%) of all drug crimes. This drop may in part be the result of a climate of uncertainty within the law enforcement and criminal justice community given the introduction of legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis, as well as a number of court rulings over this time period questioning the constitutionality of current laws regarding cannabis possession, rather than the result of an actual decrease in drug crimes. It may

also be a result of a re-prioritization of police resources towards the larger drug problem, focusing on the more serious offences which could have a greater impact on the drug trade.

In May 2003, a Bill was introduced into Parliament which proposed the decriminalization of possessing small quantities of cannabis, held for personal use, and introduced fines. The Bill was not passed before Parliament ended its session. In the face of uncertainty about the eventual outcome of the proposed amendments, many police services have continued to count incidents of, but stopped laying charges for, possession of small amounts of cannabis¹⁶. In fact, though the rate of incidents of cannabis possession decreased in 2003, the rate of persons charged with cannabis possession dropped even more (-30%).

The only cannabis-related offence to have increased in 2003 was cultivation, up 3% from the previous year. Cannabis cultivation, also referred to as "marijuana grow-ops", accounts for 14% of all cannabis offences. The rates of cocaine offences and "other" drug offences both increased, up 9% and 11% respectively, while heroin offences declined by 17%.

Among the provinces, drug crime rates ranged from 158 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 584 in British Columbia. British Columbia has reported the highest rate of drug crimes for over 20 years. In 2003, British Columbia was the only province to report an increase in its drug rate, up 6% from the previous year. British Columbia was also the only province in 2003 to record an increase in the rate of cannabis offences, including a 3% increase in the rate of possession incidents. In Vancouver, the introduction of high visibility walking beats in areas with high rates of drug crimes may have resulted in more incidents coming to the attention of police, and therefore contributed to the province's increased drug crime rate¹⁷.

Of the provinces reporting decreases in their drug rates, the largest was recorded by Ontario (-24%) followed by Prince Edward Island (-23%). These declines are associated with large decreases in the rates of cannabis offences.

In February, 2004, cannabis law reform was reintroduced into the House of Commons in the form of Bill C-10, and underwent its first reading. In May, 2004 the House of Commons rose prior to Bill C-10 completing the legislative process.

Youth Crime

Measuring youth crime

Youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be formally charged or dealt with by other means. While this has always been true, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), which came into force on April 1, 2003 replacing the *Young*

16. In a June 2003 press release, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) came out in favour of this policy. The OACP advised its members to continue to seize and process marijuana according to established policies and procedures. However, rather than proceeding with a charge, it recommended that officers document the incident with a view to possibly instituting a charge following a clarification of the law. www.oacp.on.ca/news/pdfs/PotPossessionJune03.pdf.

17. Vancouver Police source.

Offenders Act, requires that police consider the use of extrajudicial (non-court) measures for less serious offences (see text box *Youth Criminal Justice Act*) before considering a charge. As a result, it is essential to take into account both youths formally charged by police and youths "cleared otherwise" in measuring youth criminal activity coming to the attention of police. This analysis will present trends for youths charged, youths "cleared otherwise", and the crime rate resulting from the combined counts. However, it should be noted that any increase in youths cleared otherwise may be partly attributable to increased reporting by police of youths not formally charged, due to the new YCJA provisions on extrajudicial measures.

An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program.

Of the extrajudicial measures reported by police in 2003, 71% were informal verbal warnings, 12% were formal police cautions, 11% were formal referrals to extrajudicial sanctions programs, and 6% were informal referrals to community-based programs, activities or agencies¹⁸.

Text Box 2: Youth Criminal Justice Act

The extrajudicial measures encouraged by the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, proclaimed in April 2003, include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs. These measures should be used in all cases in which they would be adequate to hold the young person accountable, such as with non-violent offenders who have not previously been found guilty in court.

The Act also establishes new sentencing principles. These principles include: sentences must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person; within the limit of proportionality, the sentence must be the least restrictive alternative and the sentence that is most likely to promote rehabilitation; and the sentence must not be more severe than what an adult would receive for the same offence. In addition, the Act sets out specific restrictions on the use of custody that reserve custody primarily for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders for whom there is no alternative to custody. The Act also creates several new non-custodial sentencing options and provides that custodial sentences include a period of supervision in the community.

Source: Justice Canada. www.canada.justice.gc.ca.

Youth crime up

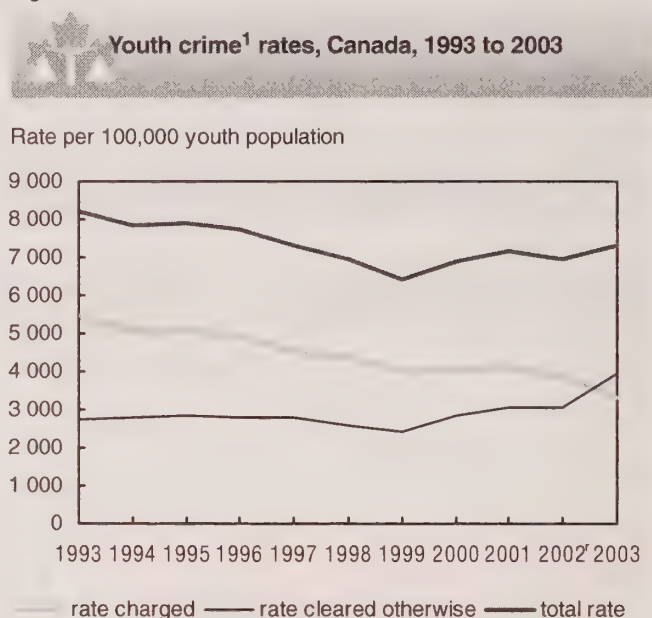
More than 84,000 youths were charged with *Criminal Code* offences in Canada in 2003, and a further 100,000 were cleared otherwise (Table 7). It should be noted that this figure likely under-estimates the true number of youths cleared otherwise as not all police services maintain records for all youths dealt with in this manner.

The rate of youths charged dropped by 15% in 2003, but was more than offset by a 30% jump in the rate of youths cleared otherwise. This suggests that the charging practices of police services have adjusted in response to the YCJA, introduced

in 2003. However, it should be noted that any increase in youths cleared otherwise may be partly attributable to increased reporting by police of youths not formally charged, due to the new YCJA provisions on extrajudicial measures. The resulting combined rate of youths charged and youths cleared otherwise was 5% higher than in the previous year, continuing the general increase that began in 2000.

Over the past decade, the rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences has generally declined, with the exception of a brief period of stability in 2000 and 2001 (Figure 16). However, the rate of youths cleared otherwise has not followed the same trend. Between 1993 and 1997 the rate remained relatively stable, followed by a decrease in the late 1990s. Beginning in 2000, the rate of youths cleared otherwise increased, including the 30% increase in 2003.

Figure 16



¹ revised

1. Includes total Criminal Code offences, excluding traffic offences.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The combined rate of youths charged and youths cleared otherwise ranged from 4,219 per 100,000 population in Quebec to 19,267 in Saskatchewan in 2003 (Table 8). Only three provinces reported declines in 2003: British Columbia (-4%), Manitoba (-3%) and New Brunswick (-2%). Of the provinces reporting increases, the largest was recorded by Prince Edward Island (+25%), followed by Newfoundland and Labrador (+16%), Saskatchewan (+14%), and Nova Scotia (+13%).

18. Data comes from those UCR2 Survey respondents able to provide a breakdown by YCJA categories. See Methodology for further information on this version of the UCR Survey.

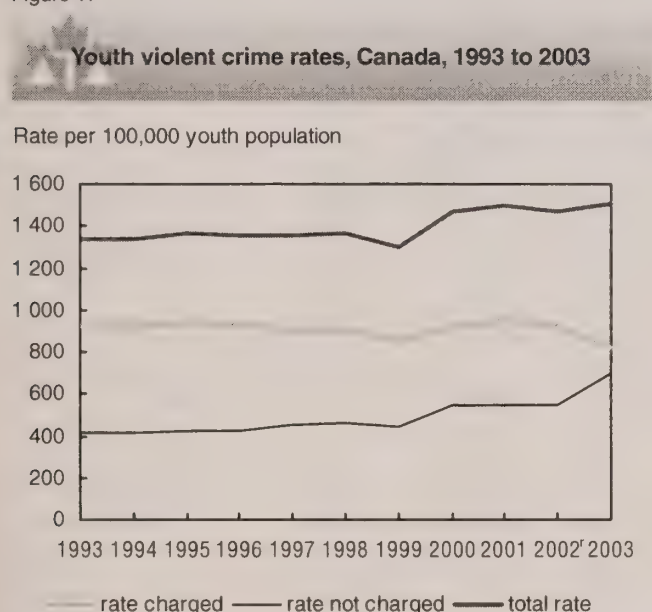
Data from the UCR2 Survey indicate that youth make up 17% of all persons accused of *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) (Table 9). Robbery and other sexual offences are the only violent crimes for which youth account for more than one-quarter of accused persons. However, youth tend to make up higher proportions of all persons accused of property crimes, accounting for one-third of all persons accused of break-ins and thefts under \$5,000, and two out of every five persons accused of motor vehicle thefts.

Youth violent crime rate increased slightly

When both youths charged and youths cleared otherwise are taken into account, violent crime accounted for 21% of youth crime in 2003.

The combined rate of youths charged with and youths cleared otherwise of violent crimes showed a slight increase (+3%) from the previous year. The rate of youths charged with violent crimes decreased 11% in 2003, while the rate of youths cleared otherwise jumped by 27%. Throughout the past decade, the trend in the rate of youth violent crime was relatively stable until it began a general increase in 2000. (Figure 17).

Figure 17



revised
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

There were 57 youths accused of homicide in 2003, 15 more than in 2002. There were also nine more youths accused of attempted murder in 2003 (69) than the previous year.

Youth property crime up

The combined rate of youths charged with a property offence and youths cleared otherwise increased slightly (+4%) in 2003. This was the first increase after three years of stability.

The rate of youths charged with property crimes has generally declined over the past decade, including double-digit decreases in 1997 and 1999. The rate of youths cleared otherwise of property crimes decreased between 1996 and 1999, and then began increasing in 2000, including a 33% jump in 2003. This more than offset the 19% drop in the rate of youths charged in 2003.

The overall increase in the rate of youths involved in property offences was driven by a 7% increase in the rate of break-ins and a 6% increase in the rate of thefts under \$5,000. However, the rate of youths accused of motor vehicle theft declined 7%.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2003 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada.

It should be noted that Toronto Police implemented a new records management system in September. As the transition had a short-term impact on data quality, Toronto data for September to December 2003 were estimated from 2002 data for the same period.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded from the "crime rate" in this report.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2003, 122 police services in 9 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey. These data represent 61% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2003 database were distributed as follows: 41% from Ontario, 30% from Québec, 11% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland and Labrador. Other than Ontario and Québec, the data are

primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 71 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 6 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

Data Revisions

During the production of each year's crime statistics, data from the previous year are revised to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services.

In 2004/05, an analysis will be undertaken of the impact on the historical data series for Ontario of a discrepancy in the methodology applied by the forces using the Ontario Municipal & Provincial Police Automated Co-operative (OMPPAC) system that was detected in 2002 and that resulted in a revision to 2001 Ontario data.

Table 1

Federal statute incidents reported to police, by most serious offence, Canada, 1999 to 2003¹

	1999		2000		2001 ²		2002 ³		2003		% change in rate [*] 2002-2003	% change in rate [*] 1993-2003
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Population	30,403,878		30,689,035		31,021,251		31,361,611		31,629,677			
Homicide ³	538	2	546	2	553	2	582	2	548	2	-6.6	-20.7
Attempted murder	687	2	767	2	725	2	678	2	710	2	3.8	-34.6
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	221,348	728	233,719	762	236,957	764	235,710	752	236,103	746	-0.7	-4.3
Level 1	181,330	596	190,467	621	191,147	616	189,185	603	188,457	596	-1.2	-6.0
Level 2-Weapon	37,501	123	40,686	133	43,094	139	43,793	140	44,791	142	1.4	4.8
Level 3-Aggravated	2,517	8	2,566	8	2,716	9	2,732	9	2,855	9	3.6	-18.6
Other assaults	12,126	40	12,164	40	12,260	40	12,454	40	12,299	39	-2.1	-24.4
Sexual assaults - Total	23,859	78	24,001	78	24,044	78	24,499	78	23,425	74	-5.2	-38.9
Level 1	23,185	76	23,428	76	23,563	76	23,973	76	22,884	72	-5.4	-38.1
Level 2-Weapon	461	2	391	1	320	1	373	1	361	1	-4.0	-61.9
Level 3-Aggravated	213	1	182	1	161	1	153	0	180	1	16.6	-54.4
Other sexual offences	3,300	11	3,114	10	2,689	9	2,756	9	2,538	8	-8.7	-44.8
Abduction	729	2	750	2	674	2	605	2	560	2	-8.2	-57.8
Robbery - Total	28,740	95	27,037	88	27,284	88	26,662	85	28,332	90	5.4	-14.2
Firearms	5,122	17	4,323	14	3,818	12	3,483	11	3,877	12	10.4	-56.3
Other Weapons	10,500	35	9,901	32	10,280	33	10,104	32	10,660	34	4.6	-0.6
No Weapons	13,118	43	12,813	42	13,186	43	13,075	42	13,795	44	4.6	2.6
Violent crime - Total	291,327	958	302,098	984	305,186	984	303,946	969	304,515	963	-0.7	-11.0
Break & enter - Total	318,054	1,046	293,357	956	279,461	901	275,573	879	284,496	899	2.4	-36.5
Business	83,971	276	82,074	267	80,264	259	81,162	259	86,469	273	5.6	-32.3
Residential	197,022	648	175,804	573	166,500	537	163,156	520	165,959	525	0.9	-37.1
Other	37,061	122	35,479	116	32,697	105	31,255	100	32,068	101	1.7	-43.4
Motor vehicle theft	161,388	531	160,315	522	168,595	543	161,912	516	171,017	541	4.7	-1.0
Theft over \$5,000 ⁴	22,493	74	21,354	70	20,845	67	19,816	63	20,124	64	0.7	-84.5
Theft \$5,000 and under ⁴	678,367	2,231	663,040	2,161	659,589	2,126	667,312	2,128	702,317	2,220	4.4	-17.7
Possession of stolen goods	29,308	96	28,530	93	26,960	87	30,056	96	32,777	104	8.1	-3.6
Fraud	90,371	297	85,791	280	86,486	279	91,812	293	92,838	294	0.3	-25.5
Property crime - Total	1,299,981	4,276	1,252,387	4,081	1,241,936	4,004	1,246,481	3,975	1,303,569	4,121	3.7	-26.1
Mischief	312,266	1,027	326,374	1,063	333,136	1,074	333,334	1,063	356,143	1,126	5.9	-22.3
Counterfeiting currency	36,265	119	35,937	117	38,674	125	79,970	255	138,430	438	71.6	911.1
Bail violations	72,192	237	78,105	255	90,545	292	96,206	307	98,164	310	1.2	34.3
Disturbing the peace	69,570	229	80,085	261	89,971	290	89,354	285	103,691	328	15.1	72.6
Offensive weapons	16,007	53	15,324	50	15,876	51	15,930	51	16,940	54	5.4	-17.3
Prostitution	5,255	17	5,051	16	5,087	16	5,770	18	5,658	18	-2.8	-39.8
Arson	12,756	42	13,733	45	14,484	47	13,131	42	13,851	44	4.6	0.7
Other	241,212	793	243,674	794	239,916	773	233,322	744	231,282	731	-1.7	-11.9
Other Criminal Code - Total	765,523	2,518	798,283	2,601	827,689	2,668	867,017	2,765	964,159	3,048	10.3	5.8
Criminal Code without traffic - Total (Crime Rate)	2,356,831	7,752	2,352,768	7,666	2,374,811	7,655	2,417,444	7,708	2,572,243	8,132	5.5	-14.7
Impaired driving ⁵	85,997	283	79,225	258	82,718	267	80,045	255	77,038	244	-4.6	-40.6
Fail to stop/remain	17,972	59	19,522	64	22,538	73	22,040	70	22,932	73	3.2	-65.4
Other - Criminal Code Traffic	13,681	45	13,698	45	14,978	48	15,486	49	15,884	50	1.7	-28.6
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	117,650	387	112,445	366	120,234	388	117,571	375	115,854	366	-2.3	-46.9
Criminal Code - Total	2,474,481	8,139	2,465,213	8,033	2,495,045	8,043	2,535,015	8,083	2,688,097	8,499	5.1	-16.9
Drugs	80,142	264	88,091	287	89,395	288	92,781	296	85,953	272	-8.1	37.2
Cannabis	60,011	197	66,274	216	67,921	219	69,687	222	60,670	192	-13.7	52.8
Cocaine	11,963	39	12,829	42	12,145	39	12,737	41	13,938	44	8.5	0.9
Heroin	1,323	4	1,226	4	951	3	786	3	655	2	-17.4	-62.8
Other drugs	6,845	23	7,762	25	8,378	27	9,571	31	10,690	34	10.7	44.6
Other federal statutes	38,942	128	34,587	113	38,013	123	40,122	128	36,186	114	-10.6	-32.0
Total federal statutes	2,593,565	8,530	2,587,891	8,433	2,622,453	8,454	2,667,918	8,507	2,810,236	8,885	4.4	-16.1

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1999 and 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001; updated postcensal estimates for 2002; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

2. Last year, data for 2001 were revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on this change refer to the Methodology section.

3. Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002, and 6 in 2003. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

4. Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized as Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased.

5. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. In 2001, the RCMP began reporting incidents in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, all other police services began reporting this way as well.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2

Rates of *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2003¹

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	
	rate	% change*	rate	% change*	rate	% change*	rate	% change*
		%		%		%		%
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,388	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.0
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,957	2.6	829	5.7	5,553	0.1	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.7	5,439	-2.0	2,613	1.5
1989	8,892	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.7	2,692	3.0
1990	9,485	6.7	973	6.8	5,612	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,040	-2.9	1,084	2.3	5,904	-4.2	3,052	-2.3
1993	9,538	-5.0	1,082	-0.2	5,575	-5.6	2,881	-5.6
1994	9,125	-4.3	1,047	-3.2	5,257	-5.7	2,821	-2.1
1995	9,008	-1.3	1,009	-3.7	5,292	0.7	2,707	-4.0
1996	8,932	-0.8	1,002	-0.7	5,274	-0.3	2,656	-1.9
1997	8,475	-5.1	993	-0.9	4,880	-7.5	2,603	-2.0
1998	8,161	-3.7	982	-1.1	4,569	-6.4	2,610	0.3
1999	7,752	-5.0	958	-2.4	4,276	-6.4	2,518	-3.5
2000	7,666	-1.1	984	2.7	4,081	-4.6	2,601	3.3
2001 ³	7,655	-0.1	984	-0.1	4,004	-1.9	2,668	2.6
2002 ^r	7,708	0.7	969	-1.5	3,975	-0.7	2,765	3.6
2003	8,132	5.5	963	-0.7	4,121	3.7	3,048	10.3

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001, updated postcensal estimates for 2002, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

2. Excluding traffic offences.

3. Last year, data for 2001 were revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on this change, refer to the Methodology section.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2003¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que. ²	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ³	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada ²
Population, 2003	519,570	137,781	936,025	750,594	7,487,169	12,238,300	1,162,776	994,843	3,153,723	4,146,580	31,060	41,872	29,384	31,629,677
Homicide														
number	5	1	8	8	100	178	43	41	63	93	1	4	3	548
rate	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	3.7	4.1	2.0	2.2	3.2	9.6	10.2	1.7
% change in rate*	149.9	-0.6	-11.3	-11.2	-15.7	-1.2	18.7	52.0	-11.1	-26.8	...	-1.0	46.7	-6.6
Assault (1.2.3)														
number	4,098	1,020	9,304	6,079	37,657	73,246	14,829	16,678	27,227	40,481	1,028	2,532	1,924	236,103
rate	789	740	994	810	503	598	1,275	1,676	863	976	3,310	6,047	6,548	746
% change in rate*	2.8	2.1	8.7	2.6	-1.0	-6.4	-1.6	12.0	1.6	0.4	3.9	19.9	11.2	-0.7
Sexual Assault (1.2.3)														
number	496	142	889	645	4,326	7,682	1,504	1,381	2,405	3,424	65	176	290	23,425
rate	95	103	95	86	58	63	129	139	76	83	209	420	987	74
% change in rate*	-10.2	-4.0	-4.2	-13.6	3.8	-9.2	0.6	-7.6	-8.5	-2.0	-31.5	-3.2	-7.9	-5.2
Robbery														
number	64	18	623	206	6,952	9,567	1,753	1,427	3,210	4,443	33	27	9	28,332
rate	12	13	67	27	93	78	151	143	102	107	106	64	31	90
% change in rate*	-20.0	-0.6	11.1	-9.7	0.7	6.0	6.7	33.3	20.7	-4.2	10.4	27.2	-2.2	5.4
Violent crime - Total														
number	4,845	1,236	11,220	7,442	53,373	95,948	18,906	20,466	34,696	50,025	1,180	2,844	2,334	304,515
rate	933	897	1,199	991	713	784	1,626	2,057	1,100	1,206	3,799	6,792	7,943	963
% change in rate*	1.3	1.2	7.3	0.3	-0.7	-5.4	-0.7	11.0	2.0	-0.3	1.3	18.5	9.0	-0.7
Breaking & Entering														
number	3,824	1,033	7,665	5,337	67,346	81,661	14,122	17,279	30,692	52,949	565	1,003	1,020	284,496
rate	736	750	819	711	899	667	1,215	1,737	973	1,277	1,819	2,395	3,471	899
% change in rate*	10.0	5.2	16.2	10.7	-4.8	-1.1	11.3	14.1	11.1	4.3	2.6	9.2	16.1	2.4
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	656	273	2,709	1,761	36,981	46,549	12,913	7,763	20,868	39,729	190	381	244	171,017
rate	126	198	289	235	494	380	1,111	780	662	958	612	910	830	541
% change in rate*	11.9	11.2	3.1	12.4	-0.5	-0.4	5.9	12.2	14.6	9.5	-17.4	11.5	17.6	4.7
Other Theft														
number	7,699	3,169	19,280	12,652	120,435	223,670	34,445	34,290	90,883	172,398	1,367	1,405	748	722,441
rate	1,482	2,300	2,060	1,686	1,609	1,828	2,962	3,447	2,882	4,158	4,401	3,355	2,546	2,284
% change in rate*	2.2	12.3	6.5	4.3	0.1	0.8	17.6	16.3	8.6	4.8	4.3	27.2	16.7	4.2
Property crime - Total														
number	13,565	4,957	34,206	22,770	244,757	396,655	64,899	65,784	161,490	287,036	2,305	3,023	2,122	1,303,569
rate	2,611	3,598	3,654	3,034	3,269	3,241	5,581	6,613	5,121	6,922	7,421	7,220	7,222	4,121
% change in rate*	4.9	9.0	8.1	6.8	-2.1	0.2	12.4	14.1	9.5	5.9	0.6	18.4	15.2	3.7
Offensive weapons														
number	166	71	664	431	1,326	5,020	1,262	967	2,338	4,450	86	92	67	16,940
rate	32	52	71	57	18	41	109	97	74	107	277	220	228	54
% change in rate*	-23.5	85.8	5.7	8.2	9.7	0.6	12.2	8.7	7.6	5.7	32.4	15.2	52.4	5.4
Mischief														
number	6,359	2,035	13,902	8,145	50,696	99,083	30,052	24,693	48,488	64,007	1,807	4,392	2,484	356,143
rate	1,224	1,477	1,485	1,085	677	810	2,585	2,482	1,537	1,544	5,818	10,489	8,454	1,126
% change in rate*	8.1	10.2	17.2	8.0	0.8	1.4	13.4	17.1	8.4	4.8	3.7	13.4	28.5	5.9
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	13,861	5,683	34,623	23,211	181,558	253,612	61,245	66,711	127,772	175,962	4,590	9,569	5,762	964,159
rate	2,668	4,125	3,699	3,092	2,425	2,072	5,267	6,706	4,051	4,244	14,778	22,853	19,609	3,048
% change in rate*	3.2	12.5	14.1	8.2	23.9	4.3	12.8	10.6	7.0	8.6	-4.1	10.4	23.1	10.3
Criminal Code - Total - without traffic offences														
number	32,271	11,876	80,049	53,423	479,688	746,215	145,050	152,961	323,958	513,023	8,075	15,436	10,218	2,572,243
rate	6,211	8,619	8,552	7,117	6,407	6,097	12,474	15,375	10,272	12,372	25,998	36,865	34,774	8,132
% change in rate*	3.6	9.8	10.5	6.4	6.5	0.7	10.7	12.1	7.7	6.2	-2.1	13.3	17.9	5.5

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

2. The 24% increase in the rate of Other Criminal Code offences in Quebec was driven by an 81% increase in counterfeiting currency incidents.

3. Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002 and another 6 in 2003. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents for the largest census metropolitan areas, 2003^{1,2}

	Toronto ⁴	Montréal ⁵	Vancouver ⁶	Calgary	Edmonton	Ottawa ⁷	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
Population³	5,118,992	3,586,221	2,126,111	1,023,666	997,938	866,621	709,323	688,746	682,741
Homicide									
number	95	57	44	11	22	10	3	18	9
rate	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.1	2.2	1.2	0.4	2.6	1.3
% change in rate *	3.6	-14.4	-37.0	-27.9	-19.2	24.0	-0.6	-22.3	-31.5
Assault (1,2,3)									
number	29,075	20,370	16,673	6,349	6,401	4,719	2,518	5,829	4,791
rate	568	568	784	620	641	545	355	846	702
% change in rate *	-7.5	-2.2	1.0	2.7	-0.6	2.7	-1.3	-9.4	-8.1
Sexual assault (1,2,3)									
number	2,586	1,918	1,260	555	698	351	381	737	548
rate	51	53	59	54	70	41	54	107	80
% change in rate *	-11.1	5.4	-3.4	-2.6	-8.1	3.9	5.2	3.7	4.9
Robbery									
number	5,746	5,649	3,244	1,186	1,616	865	416	1,618	658
rate	112	158	153	116	162	100	59	235	96
% change in rate *	7.1	2.6	-7.3	18.6	22.8	8.9	-1.8	6.5	-1.8
Violent crime - Total									
number	39,654	29,978	21,854	8,647	9,317	6,540	3,469	8,556	6,213
rate	775	836	1,028	845	934	755	489	1,242	910
% change in rate *	-5.5	-1.0	-1.1	4.1	2.3	4.1	-1.8	-5.0	-6.1
Break & enter									
number	27,680	33,046	28,706	8,611	10,182	5,749	5,876	8,006	5,557
rate	541	921	1,350	841	1,020	663	828	1,162	814
% change in rate *	-2.0	-5.3	3.4	7.4	6.3	6.6	-3.9	11.6	-2.7
Motor vehicle theft									
number	19,067	23,635	26,801	5,494	9,492	3,481	1,880	10,286	5,050
rate	372	659	1,261	537	951	402	265	1,493	740
% change in rate *	7.0	-2.6	6.3	-0.1	22.4	-16.3	34.9	7.8	1.6
Other theft									
number	84,150	70,415	89,365	25,699	32,931	18,124	11,655	24,249	13,129
rate	1,644	1,963	4,203	2,510	3,300	2,091	1,643	3,521	1,923
% change in rate *	-1.1	3.0	0.7	0.5	13.8	1.4	-0.9	21.3	1.5
Property crime - Total									
number	150,789	138,456	155,426	45,342	60,432	31,229	21,139	44,405	25,518
rate	2,946	3,861	7,310	4,429	6,056	3,604	2,980	6,447	3,738
% change in rate *	-0.2	-1.5	2.9	2.2	13.1	1.1	0.9	15.1	0.1
Offensive weapons									
number	1,887	552	2,281	415	606	309	54	443	212
rate	37	15	107	41	61	36	8	64	31
% change in rate *	1.2	19.4	6.7	-3.3	25.6	-4.2	-13.5	3.7	-4.2
Mischief -									
number	27,707	24,255	25,108	9,626	13,880	7,502	5,426	18,157	5,464
rate	541	676	1,181	940	1,391	866	765	2,636	800
% change in rate *	-1.9	1.7	3.2	-1.4	10.9	3.7	-1.4	15.2	-3.9
Other Criminal Code - Total									
number	81,088	116,237	68,844	20,239	39,710	17,051	11,333	28,755	13,603
rate	1,584	3,241	3,238	1,977	3,979	1,968	1,598	4,175	1,992
% change in rate *	3.9	36.9	10.5	0.7	8.2	6.4	8.8	9.0	2.5
Criminal Code - Total - excluding Traffic									
number	271,531	284,671	246,124	74,228	109,459	54,820	35,941	81,716	45,334
rate	5,304	7,938	11,576	7,251	10,969	6,326	5,067	11,864	6,640
% change in rate *	0.1	11.3	4.5	2.0	10.3	3.0	3.0	10.5	-0.1

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st are preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

2. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

3. Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

4. Toronto Police implemented a new records management system in September 2003. As the transition had a short-term impact on data quality, data for September to December 2003 were estimated from 2002 data for the same period.

5. The increase in other Criminal Code offences in Montréal was driven by an 87% increase in counterfeiting currency incidents. While a large increase in the number of incidents was reported for the city of Montréal, it was likely the subject of over-reporting on behalf of increases in other areas within the province, due to the location of a number of bank data centres centralized within the city's core. It should be noted, however, that the increase in counterfeit currency within Montréal was comparable to the national increase.

6. Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C (part of the Vancouver CMA) resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002, and 6 in 2003. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

7. Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas by Type of Incident, Canada, 2003^{1,2}

	Population ³	Total CC offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
		Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate	Rate	% change in rate	Rate	% change in rate
CMA's with population of 500,000 and over									
Winnipeg	688,746	11,864	10.5	1,242	-5.0	6,447	15.1	4,175	9.0
Vancouver	2,126,111	11,576	4.5	1,028	-1.1	7,310	2.9	3,238	10.5
Edmonton	997,938	10,969	10.3	934	2.3	6,056	13.1	3,979	8.2
Montréal ⁴	3,586,221	7,938	11.3	836	-1.0	3,861	-1.5	3,241	36.9
Calgary	1,023,666	7,251	2.0	845	4.1	4,429	2.2	1,977	0.7
Hamilton	682,741	6,640	-0.1	910	-6.1	3,738	0.1	1,992	2.5
Ottawa ⁵	866,621	6,326	3.0	755	4.1	3,604	1.1	1,968	6.4
Toronto ⁶	5,118,992	5,304	0.1	775	-5.5	2,946	-0.2	1,584	3.9
Québec	709,323	5,067	3.0	489	-1.8	2,980	0.9	1,598	8.8
CMA's with population between 100,000 and 499,999									
Saskatoon	241,391	15,164	16.5	1,718	7.5	7,975	25.2	5,472	8.3
Regina	197,734	15,143	4.8	1,578	2.8	8,699	4.7	4,866	5.8
Abbotsford ⁷	157,720	13,356	3.5	1,163	-1.6	7,927	2.6	4,266	6.7
Victoria	323,592	10,588	3.7	1,136	1.5	5,549	0.0	3,903	10.2
Halifax	377,932	9,324	5.1	1,343	3.5	4,797	3.7	3,184	8.0
Thunder Bay	124,628	8,533	6.9	1,222	-8.7	3,813	13.5	3,498	6.5
Saint John	144,752	7,689	3.0	1,169	1.7	3,339	-2.2	3,181	9.5
London	464,076	7,510	2.6	666	-6.9	4,339	0.2	2,505	10.1
Windsor	329,241	7,292	2.3	691	-1.1	4,041	5.7	2,560	-1.7
St. Catharines-Niagara	429,949	6,850	0.5	591	-16.1	3,781	0.1	2,478	6.3
Kingston ⁷	153,707	6,822	1.9	696	-8.0	3,623	-2.6	2,503	12.9
Sherbrooke	145,766	6,646	-5.8	587	19.2	3,812	-7.4	2,247	-8.1
Sudbury	160,113	6,498	8.9	755	-17.4	3,679	14.2	2,064	12.8
St. John's	177,843	6,480	-6.4	788	-9.8	3,772	-1.0	1,920	-14.2
Gatineau ⁸	276,933	6,199	1.6	810	-9.2	3,469	3.1	1,919	4.0
Kitchener	470,022	5,887	-0.7	564	-1.6	3,647	-1.5	1,676	1.3
Trois-Rivières ⁹	144,262	5,310	9.8	541	5.0	3,011	3.6	1,759	24.3
Saguenay	148,061	4,193	-1.4	509	4.0	2,421	-2.2	1,264	-1.8

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

3. Populations for all CMA's have been adjusted to follow police service boundaries.

4. The increase in other Criminal Code offences in Montréal was driven by an 87% increase in counterfeiting currency incidents. While a large increase in the number of incidents was reported for the city of Montréal, it was likely the subject of over-reporting on behalf of increases in other areas within the province, due to the location of a number of bank data centres centralized within the city's core. It should be noted, however, that the increase in counterfeit currency within Montréal was comparable to the national increase.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

6. Toronto Police implemented a new records management system in September 2003. As the transition had a short-term impact on data quality, data for September to December 2003 were estimated from 2002 data for the same period.

7. Abbotsford, British Columbia and Kingston, Ontario became new CMA's as of the 2001 Census.

8. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

9. The increase in Other Criminal Code offences in Trois-Rivières was driven by a 109% increase in counterfeiting currency incidents.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 6

Crime Rates for the 30 Largest Municipal Police Services¹, by Type of Incident, Canada, 2003

		Total CC offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
	Population ²	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*
Toronto CMA Police Services⁴									
Toronto Police ⁵	2,611,661	6,284	-0.4	1,043	-3.4	3,436	0.7	1,805	-0.6
Peel Regional Police	1,063,393	3,817	-5.8	496	-8.1	2,297	-4.8	1,024	-7.0
York Regional Police	851,705	4,489	5.9	467	-9.7	2,633	-1.0	1,390	30.7
Durham Regional Police ⁶	547,759	5,706	10.2	683	0.7	2,710	4.1	2,313	21.9
Halton Regional Police ⁶	413,454	4,321	7.8	463	-2.7	2,308	5.3	1,549	15.5
Montréal CMA Police Services⁴									
Montréal Police ⁷	1,871,774	10,355	15.9	1,074	-2.5	4,607	-1.8	4,674	48.7
Longueuil Police	383,396	6,633	-0.6	807	-2.9	3,672	-4.7	2,153	8.3
Laval Police	359,707	5,757	11.3	660	8.4	3,453	8.6	1,644	18.6
Vancouver CMA Police Services⁴									
Vancouver Police	569,814	12,861	2.1	1,222	0.3	8,634	-0.9	3,005	13.1
Surrey (RCMP) Police	390,145	12,922	3.0	1,234	2.2	8,217	1.5	3,471	7.2
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	205,261	12,322	8.6	963	-4.2	8,256	8.5	3,102	13.7
Richmond (RCMP) Police	174,201	8,441	8.4	579	-5.3	4,841	2.8	3,021	22.4
Other Large Police Services									
Calgary Police	936,270	7,312	0.7	870	4.0	4,616	2.1	1,826	-3.9
Ottawa Police	823,608	6,450	2.9	764	3.8	3,706	1.2	1,980	5.8
Edmonton Police	702,379	12,427	7.8	994	-1.8	7,179	11.3	4,254	4.7
Winnipeg Police	644,417	12,316	10.4	1,294	-5.5	6,719	15.3	4,303	8.8
Québec Police	524,054	5,603	1.7	540	-3.5	3,300	0.2	1,763	6.4
Hamilton Regional Police	516,776	7,370	-1.3	1,052	-6.5	4,196	-0.5	2,122	0.0
Waterloo Regional Police	470,022	5,861	-0.8	561	-1.7	3,635	-1.6	1,665	1.1
Niagara Regional Police	429,949	6,786	1.3	590	-15.3	3,745	0.3	2,451	8.1
London Police	355,169	8,245	5.0	697	-7.2	4,864	2.3	2,684	14.5
Gatineau-Métro Police	226,888	6,560	-0.7	879	-11.6	3,634	0.8	2,047	2.0
Windsor Police	221,091	9,225	3.7	865	-0.1	5,193	7.2	3,166	-0.7
Saskatoon Police	202,542	16,898	16.7	1,934	8.3	8,926	25.2	6,038	8.5
Halifax Regional Police	211,607	11,840	2.4	1,851	0.3	6,595	2.2	3,395	3.9
Regina Police	181,167	15,895	5.2	1,657	3.5	9,189	5.2	5,049	5.8
St. John's (RNC) Police	177,843	6,480	-6.4	788	-9.8	3,772	-1.0	1,920	-14.2
Greater Sudbury Police	160,113	6,498	8.9	755	-17.4	3,679	14.2	2,064	12.8
Saguenay Police	148,061	4,193	-1.4	509	4.0	2,421	-2.2	1,264	-1.8
Région Sherbrooke Police	145,766	6,646	-5.8	587	19.2	3,812	-7.4	2,247	-8.1

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on non-rounded rates.

1. Data in this table include all incidents reported within the jurisdiction of each police force, including incidents such as drug offences or counterfeiting currency which may have been handled by other police services.

2. Police Service population estimates were derived from 2003 preliminary postcensal population estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

4. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montréal, and Vancouver CMAs do not represent all the police services in the CMA.

5. Toronto Police implemented a new records management system in September 2003. As the transition had a short-term impact on data quality, data for September to December 2003 were estimated from 2002 data for the same period.

6. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police, and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

7. The increase in other Criminal Code offences in Montréal was driven by a 90% increase in counterfeiting currency incidents. While a large increase in the number of incidents was reported for the city of Montréal, it was likely the subject of over-reporting on behalf of increases in other areas within the province, due to the location of a number of bank data centres centralized within the city's core. It should be noted, however, that the increase in counterfeit currency within Montréal was comparable to the national increase.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7

Youths cleared by charge and cleared otherwise for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada¹, 2003

	2002				2003				% change in rate* 2002-2003
	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	
Population (aged 12-17)	2,518,200				2,532,002				
Homicide	42	0	42	2	56	1	57	2	35.0
Attempted Murder	59	1	60	2	69	0	69	3	14.4
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	16,876	12,187	29,063	1,154	14,731	15,728	30,459	1,203	4.2
Level 1	11,698	10,709	22,407	890	9,477	13,921	23,398	924	3.9
Level 2-Weapon	4,851	1,454	6,305	250	4,814	1,778	6,592	260	4.0
Level 3-Aggravated	327	24	351	14	440	29	469	19	32.9
Other Assaults	1,102	199	1,301	52	1,097	258	1,355	54	3.6
Sexual assaults - Total	1,620	820	2,440	97	1,450	926	2,376	94	-3.2
Level 1	1,579	812	2,391	95	1,402	920	2,322	92	-3.4
Level 2-Weapon	30	5	35	1	34	5	39	2	10.8
Level 3-Aggravated	11	3	14	1	14	1	15	1	6.6
Other Sexual Offences	157	131	288	11	133	143	276	11	-4.7
Abduction	5	1	6	0	1	2	3	0	-50.3
Robbery - Total	3,292	413	3,705	147	3,127	501	3,628	143	-2.6
Firearms	203	17	220	9	270	23	293	12	32.5
Other weapons	1,145	65	1,210	48	1,157	96	1,253	49	3.0
No weapons	1,944	331	2,275	90	1,700	382	2,082	82	-9.0
Violent crime - Total	23,153	13,752	36,905	1,466	20,664	17,559	38,223	1,510	3.0
Break & enter - Total	11,327	5,046	16,373	650	11,158	6,393	17,551	693	6.6
Residence	6,727	2,739	9,466	376	6,623	3,502	10,125	400	6.4
Business premises	3,437	1,552	4,989	198	3,534	2,013	5,547	219	10.6
Other	1,163	755	1,918	76	1,001	878	1,879	74	-2.6
Motor vehicle theft	5,536	2,165	7,701	306	4,949	2,220	7,169	283	-7.4
Theft Over \$5,000	292	148	440	17	284	162	446	18	0.8
Theft \$5,000 and Under	18,617	23,537	42,154	1,674	12,307	32,547	44,854	1,771	5.8
Possession of Stolen Goods	5,686	1,113	6,799	270	4,985	1,985	6,970	275	2.0
Fraud	1,719	1,053	2,772	110	1,409	1,314	2,723	108	-2.3
Property crime - Total	43,177	33,062	76,239	3,028	35,092	44,621	79,713	3,148	4.0
Mischief	7,050	13,388	20,438	812	5,561	18,171	23,732	937	15.5
Counterfeiting currency	179	235	414	16	285	226	511	20	22.8
Bail violations	11,330	523	11,853	471	11,190	841	12,031	475	0.9
Disturbing the peace	737	5,053	5,790	230	601	6,204	6,805	269	16.9
Offensive Weapons	1,558	1,171	2,729	108	1,506	1,758	3,264	129	19.0
Prostitution	41	52	93	4	40	47	87	3	-7.0
Arson	556	798	1,354	54	576	853	1,429	56	5.0
Other	10,900	8,851	19,751	784	8,967	10,126	19,093	754	-3.9
Other Criminal Code - Total	32,351	30,071	62,422	2,479	28,726	38,226	66,952	2,644	6.7
Criminal Code without traffic - Total	98,681	76,885	175,566	6,972	84,482	100,406	184,888	7,302	4.7

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2002; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

2. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8

Youths accused¹ of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2003²

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population (aged 12-17)	42,302	12,285	75,057	58,484	557,101	984,553	101,182	92,547	274,853	322,681	2,892	4,235	3,830	2,532,002
Homicide														
number	0	0	1	0	4	26	11	7	4	4	0	0	0	57
rate	0	0	1	0	1	3	11	8	1	1	0	0	0	2
% change in rate*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)														
number	49	13	67	64	470	858	142	179	227	258	3	21	25	2,376
rate	116	106	89	109	84	87	140	193	83	80	104	496	653	94
% change in rate*	4.9	30.3	-19.3	-10.1	13.6	-5.3	22.5	7.2	-23.7	-12.2	-41.0	13.4	9.7	-3.2
Assault (1,2,3)														
number	633	137	1,414	696	4,593	10,824	1,899	2,274	3,731	3,754	87	221	196	30,459
rate	1,496	1,115	1,884	1,190	824	1,099	1,877	2,457	1,357	1,163	3,008	5,218	5,117	1,203
% change in rate*	14.5	59.7	23.4	3.1	1.8	5.7	-1.2	22.4	1.0	-8.4	20.6	16.1	41.2	4.2
Robbery														
number	13	1	97	23	605	1,629	206	293	449	300	8	1	3	3,628
rate	31	8	129	39	109	165	204	317	163	93	277	24	78	143
% change in rate*	-11.0	-74.9	7.8	22.5	-3.3	2.9	-34.3	24.1	-1.7	-19.6	12.5	-75.7	...	-2.6
Violent crime - Total														
number	720	154	1,641	844	6,021	13,902	2,350	2,899	4,607	4,480	109	262	234	38,223
rate	1,702	1,254	2,186	1,443	1,081	1,412	2,323	3,132	1,676	1,388	3,769	6,187	6,110	1,510
% change in rate*	11.7	48.4	18.9	2.4	2.4	4.4	-5.0	21.3	-0.4	-9.2	21.9	16.2	34.5	3.0
Breaking & Entering														
number	584	77	712	413	2,441	4,563	1,253	2,331	2,566	1,792	90	315	414	17,551
rate	1,381	627	949	706	438	463	1,238	2,519	934	555	3,112	7,438	10,809	693
% change in rate*	22.2	11.9	13.4	39.3	-2.1	3.2	1.8	22.9	8.6	-1.2	-10.5	5.5	19.7	6.6
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	106	23	199	139	925	1,989	840	914	1,111	747	7	93	76	7,169
rate	251	187	265	238	166	202	830	988	404	231	242	2,196	1,984	283
% change in rate*	-10.0	-11.3	-12.7	-13.2	3.2	-11.8	-16.3	4.8	-10.1	-5.8	-72.4	70.5	26.5	-7.4
Other Theft														
number	682	190	1,373	897	6,148	15,720	2,143	3,402	7,442	6,805	144	169	185	45,300
rate	1,612	1,547	1,829	1,534	1,104	1,597	2,118	3,676	2,708	2,109	4,979	3,991	4,830	1,789
% change in rate*	7.0	14.7	15.8	-7.5	14.1	15.3	-7.2	9.8	-2.5	-5.9	16.2	6.6	3.3	5.8
Property crime - Total														
number	1,458	310	2,852	1,578	10,355	26,574	4,583	7,492	12,704	10,257	251	612	687	79,713
rate	3,447	2,523	3,800	2,698	1,859	2,699	4,529	8,095	4,622	3,179	8,679	14,451	17,937	3,148
% change in rate*	12.3	12.6	7.0	-0.5	7.8	7.7	-7.7	14.0	-0.5	-3.9	-6.8	13.3	16.0	4.0
Offensive weapons														
number	17	3	95	34	160	1,270	256	225	546	641	4	5	8	3,264
rate	40	24	127	58	29	129	253	243	199	199	138	118	209	129
% change in rate*	24.8	0.0	23.4	32.3	44.3	24.8	10.0	41.4	18.8	4.8	-64.2	-30.6	28.7	19.0
Mischief														
number	675	159	1,225	577	2,946	5,633	1,394	2,550	3,924	3,903	147	370	229	23,732
rate	1,596	1,294	1,632	987	529	572	1,378	2,755	1,428	1,210	5,083	8,737	5,979	937
% change in rate*	56.2	37.4	24.8	6.3	27.1	29.7	18.4	20.1	-3.6	3.5	-7.9	61.9	10.6	15.5
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	1,527	321	3,079	1,487	7,126	18,974	4,125	7,440	10,732	10,540	308	756	537	66,952
rate	3,610	2,613	4,102	2,543	1,279	1,927	4,077	8,039	3,905	3,266	10,650	17,851	14,021	2,644
% change in rate*	21.1	29.7	16.0	-5.0	17.3	11.0	3.7	10.5	0.3	-2.3	-24.6	34.8	13.5	6.7
Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic)														
number	3,705	785	7,572	3,909	23,502	59,450	11,058	17,831	28,043	25,277	668	1,630	1,458	184,888
rate	8,758	6,390	10,088	6,684	4,219	6,038	10,929	19,267	10,203	7,833	23,098	38,489	38,068	7,302
% change in rate*	15.6	25.3	13.0	-1.6	9.0	7.9	-3.1	13.6	-0.2	-4.3	-12.9	22.9	17.6	4.7

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

1. Youths accused equals the total of youths cleared by charge and youths cleared otherwise (e.g. by diversion).

2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2003.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9

Persons accused by age group and sex, selected incidents, 2003

	Age group by sex				Total by age group	
	Adults (18 and over)		Youth (12 to 17)		Adult	Youth
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	%		%		%	
Homicide	90	10	79	21	86	14
Attempted murder	85	15	94	6	88	12
Assaults	82	18	71	29	81	19
Sexual assaults	98	2	97	3	79	21
Other sexual offences	97	3	94	6	75	25
Abduction	42	58	100	0	98	2
Robbery	91	9	86	14	65	35
Violent crime - Total	84	16	74	26	82	18
Break and enter	93	7	91	9	67	33
Motor vehicle theft	91	9	84	16	61	39
Fraud	71	29	66	34	93	7
Theft over \$5,000	82	18	84	16	81	19
Theft \$5,000 and under	70	30	61	39	67	33
Property crime - Total	78	22	75	25	69	31
Mischief	87	13	90	10	56	44
Arson	83	17	91	9	45	55
Prostitution	51	49	23	77	99	1
Offensive weapons	82	18	92	8	98	2
Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic)	81	19	70	30	83	17
Impaired driving ¹	87	13	84	16	99	1
Cannabis Offences	88	12	85	15	72	28
Cocaine Offences	82	18	79	21	95	5
Other Drug Offences	84	16	83	17	80	20

1. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, CCJS

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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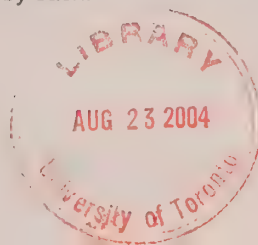


Private Security and Public Policing in Canada, 2001

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Highlights

- The role of private security in Canada is changing. According to the Census, in 2001, there were more people working in private security than there were police officers. Nationally, there were 10,465 private investigators and 73,535 security guards compared to 62,860 police officers.
- From 1996 to 2001, the number of police officers per capita increased 2% to 209 per 100,000 population but the total number of private security personnel per capita declined 2% to 280 per 100,000.
- While the number of security guards per capita remained stable, the number of private investigators declined 18%, lowering the overall rate of employment in private security as a whole.
- Women represented about one quarter of private investigators and security guards and 17% of police officers. The representation of women among each of the three occupational groups increased by three to four percentage points between 1996 and 2001.
- Visible minorities constituted 13% of the Canadian population (age 15 and over) in 2001 and represented 11% of private investigators and 16% of security guards. However, just 4% of police officers were a visible minority. Since 1996, the representation of visible minorities among police officers grew 33%, while increasing 83% among private investigators and 45% among security guards.
- Aboriginal persons made up 3% of the overall population (age 15 and over), but constituted 4% of police officers and were equally represented among security guards (4%). Aboriginal persons were slightly less likely to work as private investigators (2%).
- More than half (55%) of police officers had completed either a college certificate/diploma or a university degree, compared to 42% of private investigators and 28% of security guards.
- Only 1% of those whose most recent occupation was as a police officer were unemployed versus 5% of private investigators and 8% of security guards. Individuals employed in private security were nearly eight times more likely than police officers to work on a part-time basis.
- In 2000, police officers in full-time, full-year employment earned an average of \$59,888, more than one and a half times the average income of private investigators and more than double the average income of security guards. From 1995 to 2000, the difference in average annual incomes between police officers and private investigators decreased, while the gap between police officers and security guard earnings grew.
- The disparity in earnings between private security personnel and police officers might be attributed to factors such as differences in education and training requirements, turnover rates, the proportion of part-time work, as well as essential differences in the types of duties and responsibilities performed by each.



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Introduction

The field of security in Canada, including private security and public policing, is changing. While crime rates have been generally declining and a majority of Canadians report feeling satisfied with their personal safety (see Box 1), employment numbers for security related occupations continue to grow. Living in a post September 11th, 2001 world has brought new attention to the importance of domestic security and ensuring the safety of Canadians (see Box 2). And while the full impact of 9/11 on the security industry is yet to be seen, it seems likely that it will only further the growth that this field has already experienced.

Box 1: Feelings of personal safety and use of security measures

According to findings from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), Canadians do not appear to be growing more fearful of crime. In particular, most Canadians (91%) felt satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety. This figure was up 6% from the previous victimization survey in 1993. Nevertheless, 27% of Canadians reported that they changed their routines or avoided certain places to reduce their risk of victimization and 21% installed security hardware, such as new locks and burglar alarms, to make their homes more secure.

Source: Besserer, Sandra and Catherine Trainor. 2000. Criminal Victimization in Canada, 1999. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 20, no. 10). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

For several years, the number of police officers was on the decline; only recently have their counts increased. According to the Census, from 1991 to 1996 the total number of police officers decreased 4% from 61,280 to 59,090. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of police officers increased 6% reaching 62,860. During this same time period, employment in the security industry continued to grow and the number of private security workers consistently exceeded that of police officers. There were 84,000 people working as private investigators and security guards in 2001, compared to just over 82,000 in 1996 and 81,095 in 1991 (see Table 1).

The rising cost of insurance premiums, the increased incidence of 'high-tech' computer and technological crime and rising concerns over information safety, as well as increases in publicly accessible private property (e.g., shopping centres, stadiums and industrial parks), are a few of the possible factors fuelling an ongoing demand for private security. Beyond increases or decreases in the number of police officers and private security personnel, there has also been a transformation in the relationship between public and private security.

Traditionally, private security protected the interests of private clients, including businesses and individuals, while security concerns of a public nature fell under the jurisdiction of the public police. However, the roles of public police and private security have begun to intersect. Public police and private security personnel are entering into information-sharing partnerships. One example of such an arrangement exists between the Edmonton Police Service and the local business community. Police alert loss prevention staff of participating merchants to developing crime trends that might affect their businesses. In turn, loss prevention personnel share any potentially useful information regarding criminal activities in the retail community with police (Edmonton Police Service n.d.).

Public spaces such as shopping malls and housing projects are being monitored by private security personnel, while public police officers are being contracted to provide security at private functions such as stadium events. Local business associations are hiring security guards to patrol the neighbourhoods where their businesses are located. In short, networks which combine public and private policing efforts are appearing more frequently, as the range of activities performed by private security personnel continues to expand.

Box 2: Some recent spending on security and protection in Canada

Federal spending on security since September 11, 2001

The Canadian Government introduced a \$280-million Anti-Terrorism Plan in October of 2001. Included in the plan was \$64 million in immediate funding for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to improve the identification, prevention, and elimination of threats to the security of Canadians.

In further support of the Anti-Terrorism Plan, the 2001 federal budget committed an additional \$7.7 billion over five years to fund initiatives aimed at combating terrorism, maintaining the safety and efficiency of Canada's borders and enhancing public security.

For instance:

- \$1.6 billion over five years is allocated to strengthen intelligence and policing (i.e., to improve information sharing capabilities among law enforcement, intelligence and national security agencies; to increase the number of police and intelligence officers; and to see that these officers are better equipped).
- Another \$2.2 billion is dedicated to measures to improve the safety of air travel and implement new air security measures, such as the creation of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA). The authority, which was established in April 2002, is responsible for all airport screening equipment, pre-board screening of passengers, certifying screening officers, and contracting with the RCMP for on-board police officers.
- The budget also provides \$1.2 billion for enhancing the security and efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border (e.g., the creation of more Integrated Border Enforcement Teams).

The 2003 federal budget continues the investment in security by adding \$50 million in 2003-04 and \$25 million in 2004-05 to the Security Contingency Reserve, used to respond to unanticipated security needs.

Sources: *Solicitor General of Canada. 2001. Backgrounder: An Investment in Canada's National Security. Ottawa.*
Department of Finance Canada. 2001. The Budget in Brief 2001. Ottawa.
Department of Finance Canada. 2003. The Budget in Brief 2003. Ottawa.
Transport Canada. 2002. Backgrounder: New Canadian Air Transport Security Authority. Ottawa.

Per capita spending on public policing at highest level in more than 15 years

Policing costs topped \$7.8 billion in 2002, amounting to a 5% increase in spending from the previous year (accounting for inflation). Total policing expenditures have risen steadily since 1997, with spending in 2002 representing the largest gain in year-over-year expenditures during this six-year period. Per Canadian, almost \$249 was spent on public policing in 2002, compared to \$234 the previous year. If the effects of inflation are taken into consideration, per capita spending on policing was higher in 2002 than it had been in more than 15 years. Per capita expenditures were second highest in 1990.

Source: *Shankarraman, Gayatri. 2003. Police Resources in Canada, 2003. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-225-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.*

Despite its expanding role, when compared to public policing, private security is characterized by a number of distinct features such as minimal recruitment and training standards, lower wages, higher percentages of part-time work and less employment security.

This *Juristat* presents a socio-demographic profile of police officers and individuals working in private security occupations. Public police and private security personnel are compared in terms of their respective roles and responsibilities, and the types of governance under which each operates. Employment figures for those working in these sectors, followed by a general description of the characteristics of these employees, such as sex, age, education and income, as well as visible minority and Aboriginal status are also provided. The Census of Population is the primary source of data for the counts and profiles of those working in public policing and private security occupations (see Box 3).

Roles and responsibilities of police and private security personnel

Police officers serve and protect the public. As agents of the state, police have been granted special powers of search, arrest and detention. Among their primary duties, police personnel are responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining the peace, preventing crime, responding to emergencies, and assisting

crime victims. Police officers are also involved in community support and outreach efforts (e.g., drug awareness programs).

The broad category of private security personnel comprises two main groups: private investigators and security guards. Private investigators are those whose primary responsibilities are to conduct investigations (e.g., to locate missing persons, obtain information for civil and legal litigation cases); implement theft and fire prevention strategies; and/or prevent retail theft. Security guards control access to buildings and property; protect property against theft and vandalism; maintain order at public venues; and/or enforce security regulations at businesses.

Security guards and private investigators can be further defined as either contract or "in-house" security. As the term implies, contract security personnel are individuals who work for an agency that contracts its security services out to customers. In-house or proprietary security personnel, on the other hand, are employed directly by the organization to which they are providing security (Gerden 1998).

Private investigators and security guards are hired to serve and protect the interests of their clients. They have no more powers of arrest, search or detention than an ordinary citizen does. Private security personnel act as agents of the property owners for whom they work, and can arrest or detain individuals under the provisions of section 494 of the *Criminal Code* of

Box 3: Defining private security personnel and police officers

In this report, definitions for police officers and private security personnel, including private investigators and security guards are based on Statistic Canada's 2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S) and the 1991 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) (see Methodology section). The definition for private security personnel does **not** include persons who work in the manufacturing of alarm systems, or other such occupations that produce security devices or equipment. Also, those who monitor alarms and dispatch security vehicles are not included.

Private Investigators (G625 "Other Protective Services") include occupations such as: Alarm investigator, business investigator, corporate security officer, private detective, private investigator, retail loss prevention officer, residential alarm specialist, fire prevention specialist (except fire-fighter), floorwalker, store detective (retail), etc. This group conducts investigations to locate missing persons; obtains information for use in civil and criminal litigation matters or other purposes; investigates unlawful acts of employees or patrons of a business; prevents shoplifting; implements theft and fire prevention strategies; etc.

Security Guards (G631 "Security Guards and Related Occupations") include occupations such as: armoured car driver, bodyguard, plant guard, school crossing guard, automatic teller machine guard, bouncer, commissionaire, night watchman/woman, patrolman/woman, hand-luggage inspector, airport security guard, vault custodian, etc. Security guards control access to buildings; patrol assigned areas; maintain and enforce security regulations of businesses and at public events; perform security checks of passengers and luggage at airports; guard property against theft and vandalism; supervise and co-ordinate activities of other security guards; etc.

Police Officers (G611 "Police Officers Except Commissioned" and A351 "Commissioned Police Officers") include: constables, detectives, highway patrol officers, police sergeants, police cadets, peace officers, and police chiefs as well as railway and harbour police personnel. Special constables such as police security officers/guards are also counted in this category. The Census Police Officer data excludes military police officers. Police officers protect the public, detect and prevent crime and perform other activities directed at maintaining law and order. They are employed by municipal and federal governments, some provincial and regional governments and the Armed Forces.

The following kinds of occupational groups, which are also part of the broader occupational category (or 'Major Group' G6), Occupations in Protective Services, are **excluded** from the present analysis: sheriffs and bailiffs (employed as officers of provincial or territorial courts), by-law enforcement and other regulatory officers, correctional service officers, and all occupations unique to the Armed Forces.

Supervisory positions such as corporate security supervisor and detective agency supervisor as well as police chief, police inspector and police commissioner are **included** in both the private security personnel and the police officer personnel data.

Box 4: Findings from the 1997 Survey of Investigation and Security Services

Statistics Canada conducted a survey of firms in the Investigation and Security Services industry in 1997 to more closely examine industry characteristics such as revenues, expenses and client base. Using the definition provided by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), companies included in this survey provided investigation services, security guard and patrol services, armoured car services, security system services, and locksmith services (NAICS 5616).

In 1997, total revenues for the Investigation and Security Services industry, which constituted 2,746 companies, were \$2.1 billion. The majority (65%) of the clients for this industry were other businesses. The government represented another 18% of the client base while private individuals and households made-up 16% of those utilizing the services of investigation and security firms. Foreign consumers constituted an additional 2% of investigation and security services clients.¹

1. Percentages for the distribution of the client base for the investigation and security services industry do not total 100% due to rounding. The distribution of the client base applies to incorporated firms with revenues greater than \$50,000 and is based on the percentage of firms' total operation revenues.

2. This survey was only conducted once and discontinued after reference year 1997.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Survey of Investigation and Security Services, 1997.²

becoming more common, and the functions of private security are coming to resemble those of public police. This expansion of the scope of the duties performed by private security as well as increases in their numbers brings attention to the current regulatory mechanisms in the private security sector. However, regulation of the private security sector is, at best, described as limited, if not "fragmented and inconsistent" (Quigley and Cukier 2003: 1).

Police officers are subject to a variety of regulatory measures

As agents of the state, public police are accountable to the government and subject to a number of regulatory measures. Standards for police governance are set forth by provincial legislation, which also outline police employment and training requirements. Police are held accountable for their actions through a variety of means such as federal and provincial legislation (e.g., *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*); local police boards/commissions or municipal councils; provincial police commissions; public/civilian complaint commissions/boards; internal affairs and special investigations; as well as criminal prosecution and civil litigation.

Regulation of private security personnel is limited

There are provincial/territorial laws regulating security personnel and agencies. For instance, provincial/territorial legislation in many jurisdictions provide for the investigation into complaints made against licensed private security personnel and allow for the suspension or revocation of licenses. Private investigators and security guards are also accountable to their clients and their employers. They may be held responsible for their actions under the threat of civil litigation or criminal prosecution. However compared to police officers, governance measures for private security personnel are limited.

Canada (as can any private citizen) and often make arrests under provincial legislation (e.g., provincial trespass laws and landlord/tenant acts) that protects the rights of property owners. Private security personnel perform a range of services such as guards patrolling and controlling access to property, armoured car operations, and store detectives and security functions. Private security personnel can also be found in less conventional capacities, such as providing risk management consultations, conducting forensic analyses, offering protection against 'high-tech' computer crimes and investigating corporate fraud.

Regulation and Accountability

Today, private security employees are encountering the public on a more frequent basis, partnerships with police are

With the exception of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, each province and territory has its own legislation regulating private security. However in the absence of any national standards, the content and coverage of private security regulation varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The provincial/territorial legislation governing private security stipulates the regulatory and licensing measures for private security employees and agencies. In general, the basic licensing criteria tend to be quite minimal and usually include items such as a minimum age requirement (18 or 19, depending on the jurisdiction), a criminal record check, and Canadian citizenship or legal immigrant status. Only three provinces, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, require applicants to meet minimum training requirements to receive a license. Licenses must be renewed annually and can be revoked in cases of non-compliance (Quigley and Cukier 2003).

Box 5: Proposed changes to the Ontario *Private Investigators and Security Guards Act*

In order to keep pace with the changes in the industry, several provinces, including British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia have recently reviewed or are currently reviewing their private security legislation. Legislative revisions have focused on issues of training, licensing and equipment standards. Below are some of the proposed changes to the Ontario *Private Investigators and Security Guards Act*, as outlined in the Ministry of Public Safety and Security's June 2003 Discussion Paper.

- Establishing mandatory basic training as a prerequisite to a basic licence.
- Licensing of all security guards and private investigators, including both contract and in-house employees.
- Enabling private investigators and security guards to become licensed before they actually start working.
- Allowing licenses to be portable so that individuals can take licences with them from one employer to the next.
- Implementing additional security checks and conducting more comprehensive background checks of license applicants.
- Introducing a license classification system that would recognise the diversity of the roles and responsibilities within the private security industry.
- Creating new standards for identifying marks or insignia appearing on uniforms and vehicles to distinguish private security personnel from public police officers.
- Establishing standards for the types and usage of equipment by security guards and private investigators.

Source: Ministry of Public Safety and Security. 2003. *Private Investigators and Security Guards Act Discussion Paper*. Toronto.

There are also provincial/territorial regulations controlling the extent to which private security personnel can be armed. While generally, private security personnel are prohibited from carrying firearms, in some instances security guards may be permitted to do so (i.e., when they are protecting precious metals, goods or cash). In such cases, armed security guards can only use their firearms in the course of self-defence or defending against the death or serious injury of another individual (Law Commission of Canada 2002). Otherwise, private security personnel must comply with the same firearms regulations as private citizens (Quigley and Cukier 2003).

While most jurisdictions have some form of legislated governance in place, these provincial/territorial regulations apply only to contract security. At this time, in-house security

personnel are not subject to provincial/territorial licensing requirements and remain largely unregulated (Law Commission of Canada 2002). Only private security personnel employed by permanent commercial casinos are obligated to obtain a license (Gerden 1998).

In addition to provincial/territorial statutes, there are a number of professional associations (e.g., The Canadian Alarm and Security Association, The Canadian Society for Industrial Security, The Federal Association of Security Officials) that promote minimum standards among their members. However, membership and compliance are voluntary. Furthermore, these professional organizations do not provide membership for all segments of the private security industry (Gerden 1998).

An employment profile of public police and private security personnel

Private security personnel outnumbered police officers

According to the 2001 Census, private security personnel continued to outnumber police officers across Canada, as they had in 1991 and 1996 (see Table 1). With a total of 84,000 private security personnel (10,465 private investigators and 73,535 security guards) compared to 62,860 police officers, there were 1.3 times as many people working in private security as there were police officers (see Table 1).

Box 6: Defining 'employed', 'unemployed' and 'occupation'

The data in this section are estimates of employment and unemployment by occupation from the *Census of Population*.

The term "**employed**" includes persons aged 15 years and older who, during the week prior to Census day, did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice. Those who were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of a vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work or any other reason were also considered "employed".

The term "**unemployed**" refers to persons 15 years of age and over who were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

"**Occupation**" refers to the kind of work persons were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work and the description of their main job activities. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration (May 15, 2001), the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 2000. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Occupation data for 1991 and 1996 are based on 1991 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) definitions. However, in 2001 Census occupation data were coded to the 2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S 2001). In order to facilitate comparisons between occupation data coded to 1991 SOC and 2001 NOC-S, a historical occupation variable was created. This historical occupation variable was used for the analysis included in this report.

In 2001, the number of people employed as police officers was 3% higher than it had been in 1991 and counts for those working in private security were 4% higher. Between 1991 and

1996, counts for police officers dropped 4%. The total number of individuals working in private security was fairly stable, increasing just 1%. While the number of police officers and private security personnel both grew between 1996 and 2001, police officers experienced a slightly greater rate of increase. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of police officers rose by 6%, while the total number of private security personnel (private investigators and security guards) increased by 2% (see Table 1).

If, however, changes in population size are taken into account, the overall picture shifts somewhat. In 2001, there were 209 police officers per 100,000 population, representing a 7% decrease over 1991, but a 2% increase over 1996. For private security however, the number of personnel per capita was down in 2001 compared to previous years. At 280 per 100,000 population, the number of people employed in private security per capita was 6% lower than it had been in 1991 and 2% below 1996 rates (see Table 2).

Box 7: Police officer counts from the Police Administration Survey

Counts for police officers are also collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics' Police Administration Survey. The survey is conducted annually and gathers national statistics on personnel and expenditures from municipal, provincial and federal police services.

Police officer counts and rates per 100,000 population from the Police Administration Survey, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001

	Population ¹ 2001	Counts	Rates per 100,000 population	% change in rates 1996-2001
Newfoundland and Labrador	521,986	767	147	-1
Prince Edward Island	136,672	203	149	-1
Nova Scotia	932,389	1,581	170	-3
New Brunswick	749,890	1,317	176	2
Quebec	7,396,990	13,927	188	-1
Ontario	11,897,647	22,175	186	2
Manitoba	1,151,285	2,206	192	-2
Saskatchewan	1,000,134	1,962	196	5
Alberta	3,056,739	4,755	156	-3
British Columbia	4,078,447	6,895	169	2
Yukon	30,129	121	402	13
Northwest Territories	40,822	152	372	0
Nunavut	28,121	91	324	...
RCMP Headquarters & Training Academy	...	924	...	...
Canada	31,021,251	57,076	184	0

... not applicable

1. Populations are based on July 1st final postcensal estimates for 2001 provided by the Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Police officer counts from the Police Administration Survey will differ from those of the Census due to a number of methodological differences between the two data sources. For instance, the Police Administration Survey includes counts of full-time officers and converts those working part-time into full-time equivalents (e.g., four police officers working 10 hours per week equal 1 full-time police officer), and also excludes temporary police officers. For Census counts, however, part-time police officers are not converted to full-time equivalents and counts could include temporary police officers. And while the national counts from the Police Administration Survey include police officers from the RCMP Headquarters and Training Academy (which represent about 2% of all police officers), these figures are not included in the province where these "centralized" areas are located. Therefore, caution must be observed when making any comparisons between the Census and Police Administration data.

National Census counts of police officers are consistently higher than counts provided by the Police Administration Survey. In 2001, police officer counts from the Census were 10% higher than those reported on the Police Administration Survey for that year. Nevertheless, when comparisons between the Police Administration Survey and the Census are made, some complementary findings are revealed. For example, between 1996 and 2001, the Census, shows a 6% increase in the number of police officers and findings from the Police Administration Survey indicate a 5% growth.

Police officer counts and rates per 100,000 population from the Police Administration Survey, Canada, 1991 to 2001

Canada	Total number of police officers	Rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate
1991	56,768	203	...
1992	56,992	201	-1
1993	56,901	198	-1
1994	55,859	193	-3
1995	55,008	188	-3
1996	54,323	184	-2
1997	54,719	183	-1
1998	54,763	182	-1
1999	55,321	182	0
2000	55,954	182	0
2001	57,076	184	1

... not applicable

Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

The number of security guards rose, counts for private investigators declined

Looking within the private security field, the vast majority (85% to 90%) of personnel fall under the category of security guard. From 1996 to 2001 the number of security guards rose by 5%. However, a 14% decline in the number of private investigators between 1996 and 2001 served to lower the overall rate of growth to 2% for employment in private security as a whole (see Table 1). Controlling for the effects of population differences between 1996 and 2001, the growth rate among security guards drops to 1% and the decline in the number of private investigators increases to 18% (see Table 2).

Box 8: Using provincial/territorial registrars to determine private security employment counts

Counts for private investigators and security guards shown in this report may differ from those using other data sources. For example, provincial/territorial registrars' data on the number of licences issued to private investigators and security guards reflect counts of licences rather than persons; a licence is not a requirement if the person works "in-house", and persons having a licence are not necessarily employed in the private security field.

The number of security guards per capita in 2001 was 8% below 1991 per capita rates. However during this same time period, the number of private investigators per capita increased 16%, with a 41% increase occurring between 1991 and 1996. The large overall increase in the number of private investigators during this period likely reflects a change in the nature of security requirements in Canada, such as investigations for fraud, electronic surveillance, and alarm systems (Swol, 1998).

Box 9: Police services' security officers/ guards

Some police services in Canada also have security officers/guards as part of their personnel. These security officers/ guards are special constables, who typically work as court security officers, providing security for individuals in custody or in court. The number of these security officers/guards has generally been on the rise. In 2001 there were 909 security officers/ guards employed by police services in Canada, representing a 23% increase from 1996 and a 51% increase from 1991. This figure was down slightly in 2002, with 892 security officers/ guards.

Source: Statistics Canada. Police Administration Annual Survey.

Private security personnel were about seven times more likely to experience unemployment and almost eight times as likely to work part-time

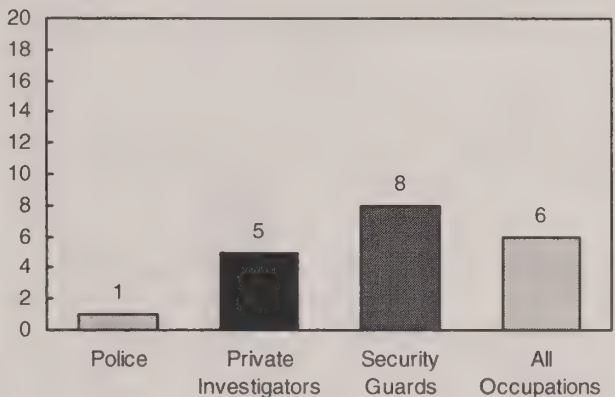
Labour force participants with private security occupations¹ tended to have higher unemployment rates than police officers. Nationally, 1% of police officers were unemployed, compared with 5% of private investigators and 8% of security guards (see Figure 1).

Part-time work is a characteristic typically associated with the security industry. Findings from the 2001 Census indicate security guards were more than eight times as likely as police officers to be employed part-time.² The proportion of private investigators working part-time was nearly five times that of police officers (see Figure 2).

Figure 1

Security guards are the most likely to be unemployed^{1,2}

% unemployed



1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older, excluding institutional residents, who were in the labour force (i.e., those who were either employed or unemployed) during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day.
2. Includes police officers, private investigators, security guards and all other occupations in Canada. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration (May 15, 2001), the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 2000. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001.

Characteristics of police and private security personnel

More women working in private security than in policing; approximately 1 in 4 private security personnel were female

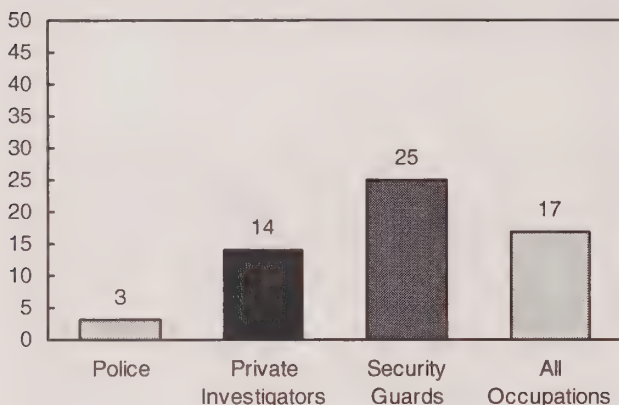
Women had a higher representation in private security than in public policing (see Table 3). In 2001, women constituted 25% of private investigators and 23% of security guards, compared to 17% of police officers. These figures have all increased since 1996, with the representation of women among each of the three occupational groups increasing by three to four percentage points in 2001 (see Table 3). It should be noted that while the proportion of women was lowest among police officers in 2001, efforts to recruit more women have produced steady increases in their numbers since the mid-1970's, when only 1% of officers were female (Shankarraman 2003).

1. Individuals currently working as security guards or private investigators, or those who were during the week prior to Census Day, unemployed, but whose job of longest duration from January 1, 2000 to May 15, 2001 was in private security.
2. The term part-time refers to persons 15 years of age and over who were employed during the week prior to Census Day and worked for pay for less than 30 hours.

Figure 2

Security guards are more likely to be employed part-time^{1,2}

% working part-time



1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older, excluding institutional residents, who were employed during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day. Individuals were considered to be employed part-time, if they worked for pay for less than 30 hours that week. Those working 30 or more hours during the week were considered employed full-time.
2. Includes those employed as police officers, private investigators, security guards and all other occupations in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001.

Individuals under the age of 25 and those over 54 years of age were more likely to work in private security

There were considerable age differences between persons employed in private security and those employed as police officers (see Table 4). In comparison with police officers, private security personnel had a much higher percentage of personnel under the age of 25 and over the age of 54. About two-thirds of police officers were 25 to 44 years of age. Security guards, however, were more evenly distributed across the five age categories (see Figure 3). Just 5% of police officers were between the ages of 15 to 24 years, compared to 21% of security guards. And where 23% of security guards were aged 55 and older, only 4% of police officers were this age. Private investigators were more likely than police officers to be under the age of 25 or over 54 years of age, but were less likely than security guards to fall into these age groups (see Figure 3). The age distributions of police officers, private investigators, and security guards have been relatively stable over the past decade.

Differences in training requirements and the nature of the work may explain the disparate age distributions of public police officers and private security personnel. Private security jobs require different levels of education and training than police officer positions. Police services typically require applicants to possess at least a high school diploma and prefer those with post-secondary education. However, there is an absence of basic educational and training standards for private security personnel, which may explain the higher proportion of

Figure 3

Security guards are fairly evenly distributed across the five age categories

%



□ Police Officers ■ Private Investigators ■ Security Guards

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001.

individuals under the age of 25 working in this field. The low percentage of police officers who are over the age of 55 is likely due to the fact that many officers retire by the time they reach this age. By contrast, the relatively high proportion of older individuals found in the private security field may be because this type of work is better able to accommodate older employees. Further, it is not uncommon for individuals such as retired police officers and military personnel to start working in private security upon leaving their former careers.

Among police officers, there was a tendency for women to be younger than men, which is not unexpected given the recent growth in female recruitment. Over one-half (53%) of female police officers were below the age of 35, compared to only 31% of men.

Among the private investigators and security guards, women were more evenly distributed across the different age categories, but were most under-represented in the oldest age category (see Table 4). This pattern is more similar to the age distribution found among women employed across all occupations.

Police officers continue to have higher education levels than private security

For most police forces, prospective recruits must possess at least a grade 12 education, but as previously mentioned, preference is typically given to those with college diplomas or university degrees. Only Quebec police services require that new recruits earn a post-secondary diploma prior to being hired. With respect to career advancement, some promotion processes emphasize educational attainment. Police work in specialty units such as forensics, computer crime and DNA analysis also requires higher education. Such specialization

is recognized as an important aspect of career development, especially in the last few years, as the opportunities to move up the career ladder have declined, even among larger police services (Human Resources Development Canada, Canadian Police Association and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and PriceWaterhouseCoopers 2001).

There are virtually no educational minimums for private security personnel. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have established some mandatory training prerequisites for acquiring private security licenses. However, aside from these measures, employers are responsible for establishing educational and training requirements for private investigators and security guards. As a result, differences in education levels between police officers and private security personnel are evident.

In 2001, 96% of police officers had attained at least a high school diploma, compared to 89% of private investigators and 76% of security guards. Further, more than half (55%) of police officers had completed either a college certificate/diploma or a university degree. In comparison, 42% of private investigators and only 28% of security guards had achieved the same level of education (see Table 5). This pattern is consistent with previous years, where education levels were highest for police.

Across all three occupational categories, there were some small variations in educational attainment by sex (see Table 5). Consistent with trends found in the general population, where 54% of women and 47% of men had earned a college certificate or diploma, or attended university, female police officers and female private investigators were likely to have higher levels of schooling than their male counterparts. This gender difference was slightly more pronounced among the police officers. For instance, 17% of female private investigators compared to 11% of male private investigators held a university degree, while 27% of female police officers had a university degree compared to 17% of male officers.

The higher level of educational attainment for female police officers might be explained by the trend toward higher educational achievement among police officers in general, coupled with the marked growth in the proportion of female police since the mid-1970's. However, looking just at individuals under the age of 25 years (i.e., those who are most likely to have recently entered policing), female police officers still had higher levels of education than male officers.

Among security guard personnel, the reverse was true and males generally held higher levels of education than their female counterparts. In 2001, 40% of men held a certificate or diploma from a trade school or college or had at least some university education, compared to 37% of women. These findings stand in contrast to those found among the total population.

Visible minorities had higher representations in private security, especially among security guards

Visible minorities³ were more likely than those who are not a visible minority to be employed as security guards, were somewhat less likely to work as private investigators and were least likely to be employed as police officers. In 2001, visible

minorities made up 12% of the employed labour force and nearly 13% of the Canadian population (15 years of age and older). Visible minorities accounted for 4% of police officers, compared to 11% of private investigators and 16% of security guards (see Table 6). Thus, despite programs aimed at creating police forces that more closely resemble the public they serve, police services still face some challenges with respect to recruiting and retaining visible minorities (Human Resources Development Canada, et al. 2001).

Since 1996 however, the number of visible minority police officers did increase 61%. The number of visible minorities among private investigators and security guards also grew, increasing 55% and 49%, respectively, between 1996 and 2001.

Aboriginal persons well represented in both public policing and private security

Aboriginal people⁴ made up 2% of those employed in Canada in 2001 and represented approximately 3% of the country's population (15 years of age and up). Aboriginal persons constituted a similar proportion of the total employment among police officers and security guards (4% each) as well as private investigators (2%). The proportion of Aboriginal persons for all three of these occupational categories has increased somewhat over 1996 figures (see Table 7).

Police officer counts include members of self-administered First Nations Police Services (Aboriginal police officers policing their own communities), the majority of whom are Aboriginal people.

Police officers earn significantly more than private security personnel

Lower education and training requirements, higher turnover, larger proportions of part-time workers, the competitive nature of the industry as well as essential differences in the duties and responsibilities they perform, have contributed to traditionally lower employment earnings among private security personnel, compared to public police. In 2000,⁵ the average annual income for police officers in full-time, full-year employment continued to be considerably higher than the average income for all occupations, and was considerably higher than earnings for those in private security. Police officers reported earning an average of about \$59,900 per year, which was more than one and a half times the average income for private investigators and more than double the average income of security guards. Security guards earned, on average, 30% less than private investigators, annually. Both security guards and private investigators had below average yearly earnings, in comparison to all occupations (see Table 8).

Adjusting for inflation, the average annual income for police officers rose 2% between 1995 and 2000. Average annual incomes for private investigators increased 6%, and were stable

3. See Methodology section for a definition of visible minorities.

4. See Methodology section for a definition of Aboriginal persons and Census coverage of Indian reserves and Indian settlements.

5. Annual average income figures are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and are based on full-time workers, aged 15 years and older, with employment income for a full-year.

for security guards (-0.4%) (see Table 8). The difference in average annual incomes between police officers and private investigators was somewhat smaller in 2000 than it was in 1995. In contrast, the gap in the average annual earnings of police officers compared to security guards grew slightly during this time. The disparity between private investigator and security guard annual incomes also registered an increase between 1995 and 2000, widening by 4 percentage points.

Lower employment incomes among private security personnel, particularly security guards, may be due in part to a less experienced, less educated workforce. A younger workforce will have had less opportunity to earn educational credentials and gain employment experience. As previously discussed, there was a higher proportion of individuals age 15 to 24 employed in private security compared to public policing (20% versus 5%). In addition, educational attainment among private security personnel was also lower than for police officers. While 55% of police officers had earned a college certificate/diploma or university degree, only 30% of private security workers had done so.

Methodology

Due to changes in the occupational classification systems used in the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Censuses, only trend information dating back to 1991 is possible. These changes in classification systems affect the occupations that are included in both the private investigator and security guard categories. Comparable 1971 to 1986 Census occupation data are available classified according to the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). 1991 Census data were classified using both the old 1980 (SOC) and the new 1991 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). 1996 and 2001 Census occupation data are not available classified according to the 1980 SOC, but rather, the newer 1991 SOC. The longest comparable time-series for Canadian Census occupation data, therefore, currently is 1991 to 2001.

The primary data source used for this *Juristat* was the Census of Population. The Census collects data on every person in Canada based on where he or she lives and is conducted every five years. There are two types of questionnaires that are used to collect the data: a short form and a long form. The long form goes out to one in every five households in Canada and represents a 20% sample, while the remaining households receive the short form. The data used for this report are from the 20% sample which has been weighted to the national level.

The population universe used throughout this *Juristat*, with the exception of the data presented for salaries, was the "Employed Labour Force" which includes: "persons 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, ... who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day: a) did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm business or professional practice; b) were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of vacation, illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or other reasons" (Statistics Canada 2003: 54). The population universe used for data on average annual income included: persons aged 15 years or older, with employment income, who worked full-year, full-time in 2000.

Data from the Censuses for 1991, 1996 and 2001 were presented by occupational classification. Since a new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) was introduced in 1991,

Census data prior to 1991 cannot be compared using the standard occupational groups, as the types of occupations included in the earlier categories and definitions have changed considerably.

In 2001 Census occupation data was coded to the 2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S 2001). In order to facilitate comparisons between occupation data coded to 1991 SOC and 2001 NOC-S a historical occupation variable was created and wherever possible, the 1991 SOC code has been retained. This historical occupation variable was used for the analysis included in this report.

In this report, **visible minorities** are persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour (i.e., Chinese, South-Asian, Black, Arab/West Asian, Filipino, South East Asian, Latin American, Japanese and Korean).

Aboriginal persons refers to those who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal Group, i.e., North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Census coverage was incomplete for some Indian reserves and Indian settlements. In the 1996 Census there were 77 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, and 30 in the 2001 Census. For larger geographic areas (i.e., Canada, provinces, census metropolitan areas, and census agglomerations), the impact of these missing data is very small. The impact can be significant for smaller geographic areas containing one or more of these reserves and settlements.

Other Data Sources

While the Census provides the information needed to conduct the type of detailed comparisons of police and private security personnel, other data sources provide some information. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects occupational level data using 1991 SOC as well as industry level data using North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) 1997. However, due to the relatively small sample size of the LFS, users are cautioned against using estimates produced at the level necessary to study police and private security personnel.

The Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) produces industry data using the 1997 NAICS. The 1997 NAICS does not permit uniform identification of the two main groups (police officers and private security personnel) needed for this comparative study as the level of industrial coding is not sufficiently detailed. Furthermore, SEPH does not collect a very wide range of socio-demographic characteristics for employees (such as age, level of schooling, visible minority status or aboriginal status variables).

While data for the Investigation and Security Services industry (NAICS 5616) (i.e., employment and income figures) are available through SEPH, the use of these data for years prior to 2001 would warrant due caution. With the conversion to NAICS from the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), trends for the broader SIC category 'Other Business Services',

which included industries providing security and investigation services, were applied to produce estimates for years prior to 2001 for industries classified as Investigation and Security Services under NAICS. The SEPH did not begin to collect actual NAICS-based data until 2001.

The Police Administration Statistics Annual Survey is another data source for police officer counts. All police services in Canada provide personnel and expenditure information on an annual basis. Personnel counts include the actual number of permanent, full-time (full-time equivalents) police officers and civilians who are employed by the police service on a specific date. Counts for expenditures include final operational expenditures for the year.

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Table 1

Police officers, private investigators and security guards,¹ Canada 1991, 1996 and 2001

	1991	1996	2001	% change 1991-2001	% change 1996-2001
Police Officers	61,280	59,090	62,860	3	6
Total Private Security	81,095	82,010	84,000	4	2
Private Investigators	8,215	12,230	10,465	27	-14
Security Guards	72,880	69,780	73,535	1	5

Totals may not add up as Census data are randomly rounded to base 5.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 2

Police officers, private investigators and security guards,¹ rates per 100,000, Canada, 1991, 1996 and 2001

	1991	1996	2001	% change 1991-2001 ²	% change 1996-2001 ²
Police Officers	224	205	209	-7	2
Total Private Security	297	284	280	-6	-2
Private Investigators	30	42	35	16	-18
Security Guards	267	242	245	-8	1
Population³	27,296,859	28,846,761	30,007,094		

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

2. Percentage change based on unrounded figures.

3. Populations represent counts established by the 1991, 1996, and 2001 Census of Population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 3

Police officers, private investigators and security guards¹ by sex, Canada, 2001

	Total	Male	Female	% female 2001	% female 1996	% female 1991
Police Officers	62,860	52,455	10,405	17	13	9
Total Private Security	84,000	64,780	19,220	23	20	19
Private Investigators	10,465	7,865	2,600	25	21	26
Security Guards	73,535	56,910	16,625	23	20	18

Totals may not add up as Census data are randomly rounded to base 5.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 4

Police officers, private investigators and security guards¹ by age and sex, Canada, 2001

	15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 years & older		Total all ages	
	Number	% of all ages	Number	% of all ages	Number	% of all ages	Number	% of all ages	Number	% of all ages	Number	% of all ages
Police Officers												
Male	2,025	4	14,255	27	19,075	36	14,920	28	2,180	4	52,455	100
Female	925	9	4,555	44	3,660	35	1,040	10	220	2	10,405	100
Total	2,955	5	18,810	30	22,740	36	15,960	25	2,395	4	62,860	100
Private Investigators												
Male	925	12	1,975	25	1,740	22	1,915	24	1,320	17	7,865	100
Female	395	15	830	32	715	28	505	19	155	6	2,600	100
Total	1,320	13	2,805	27	2,450	23	2,415	23	1,470	14	10,465	100
Security Guards												
Male	11,715	21	12,085	21	9,015	16	9,810	17	14,290	25	56,910	100
Female	3,360	20	3,570	21	3,750	23	3,260	20	2,690	16	16,625	100
Total	15,075	21	15,655	21	12,765	17	13,065	18	16,980	23	73,535	100

Totals may not add up as Census data are randomly rounded to base 5.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 5

Percentage of police officers, private investigators and security guards¹, by highest level of education and sex, Canada, 2001

	Police Officers			Private Investigators			Security Guards		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Less than High School Diploma	4	3	4	11	11	11	23	27	24
High School Diploma	9	6	9	14	13	13	18	20	18
Some Trade & Non-University	11	9	11	16	15	16	18	17	18
Trade & Non-University with Certificate/Diploma	37	33	36	30	29	29	20	20	20
Some University	22	22	22	18	15	17	12	10	12
University with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	17	27	19	11	17	13	8	6	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 6

Police officers, private investigators and security guards¹ by visible minority status and sex, Canada, 2001

	Total	Visible minorities		
	2001	2001	2001	1996
		number	percent	percent
Police officers				
Male	52,455	2,395	5	3
Female	10,405	385	4	4
Total	62,860	2,775	4	3
Private investigators				
Male	7,865	895	11	7
Female	2,600	290	11	4
Total	10,465	1,185	11	6
Security guards				
Male	56,910	9,870	17	12
Female	16,625	1,750	11	7
Total	73,535	11,620	16	11
All occupations³				
Male	7,810,295	958,305	12	10
Female	6,884,840	857,575	12	10
Total	14,695,135	1,815,875	12	10
Canada population 15 years & older⁴				
Male	11,626,790	1,464,665	13	11
Female	12,274,570	1,576,985	13	11
Total	23,901,360	3,041,650	13	11

Totals may not add up as Census data are randomly rounded to base 5.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

2. Census data for persons in a visible minority does not include aboriginal persons.

3. Includes those employed as police officers, private investigators, security guards and all other occupations in Canada.

4. Includes all persons aged 15 years and older regardless of their employment status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 7

Police officers, private investigators and security guards¹ by Aboriginal status and sex, Canada, 2001

	Total	Aboriginal persons		
	2001	2001 number	2001 percent	1996 percent
Police Officers				
Male	52,455	1,955	4	3
Female	10,405	485	5	5
Total	62,860	2,440	4	3
Private Investigators				
Male	7,865	130	2	1
Female	2,600	80	3	2
Total	10,465	210	2	1
Security guards				
Male	56,910	2,250	4	3
Female	16,625	740	4	3
Total	73,535	2,995	4	3
All occupations²				
Male	7,810,295	163,485	2	2
Female	6,884,840	160,455	2	2
Total	14,695,135	323,945	2	2
Canada population 15 years & older³				
Male	11,626,790	311,365	3	2
Female	12,274,570	340,985	3	2
Total	23,901,360	652,350	3	2

Totals may not add up as Census data are randomly rounded to base 5.

1. Counts for police officers, private investigators and security guards are estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older who were employed in the week prior to Census Day.

2. Includes those employed as police officers, private investigators, security guards and all other occupations in Canada.

3. Includes all persons aged 15 years and older regardless of their employment status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population

Table 8

Average annual employment income¹ for police officers, private investigators and security guards in current and constant dollars,² Canada, 1995 and 2000

	2000	1995	% change
	current \$	2000 constant \$	
Police officers	59,888	58,596	2
Private investigators	39,373	37,245	6
Security guards	27,369	27,474	-0.4
Total all occupations³	43,231	40,908	6

1. Data on average annual employment income are estimates from the 1996 and 2001 Census of Population and represent persons aged 15 years and older with employment income, who worked full year, full-time during 1995 and 2000, respectively.

2. In order to create constant dollar figures with the effects of inflation removed, figures were converted to a base of 2000=100 using Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

3. Total All Occupations includes police officers, private investigators, security guards and all other occupations in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population.

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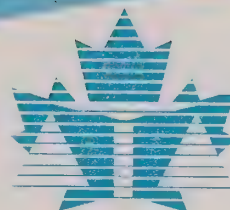
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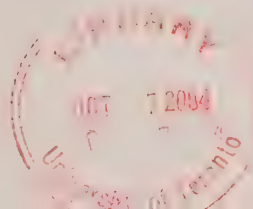
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Homicide in Canada, 2003

by Mia Dauvergne

Highlights

- Canadian police services reported 548 homicides in 2003, 34 fewer than the previous year. The national rate dropped 7% to 1.73 per 100,000 population, reaching its lowest point since 1967.
- The decline in the homicide rate was driven by decreases in the number of homicides reported in British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta. Quebec (1.34 per 100,000 population) and Nova Scotia (0.85) reported their lowest rates since the 1960s.
- In 2003, the highest rates were found in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, followed by Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Yukon. Saskatchewan recorded a rate of 4.12, its highest since 1977. The lowest homicide rates were reported in the Atlantic provinces.
- Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), both Montréal (1.59) and Québec (0.42) reported their lowest homicide rates since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981, and Halifax (0.79) reported its lowest rate since 1983. The highest rates were reported in the smaller CMAs of Abbotsford (5.07) and Regina (5.06).
- Firearms were used in less than one-third (29%) of all homicides, with handguns accounting for two-thirds (68%) of all firearm-related homicides. There was a large drop in the number of victims stabbed to death, down by 40 in 2003, resulting in the lowest number of fatal stabbings (142 or 26%) since 1980. Another 22% of victims were beaten, 12% were strangled or suffocated and 11% were killed by other or unknown means.
- One in every seven homicides were reported by police to be gang-related. There were 84 victims of gang-related homicides in 2003.
- The drop in the number of homicides in 2003 was related to fewer females being killed. There were 156 female victims, 50 fewer than in 2002. Conversely, the number of male victims increased from 376 to 392 in 2003. As in the past, almost 9 in 10 accused were male.
- Most homicides are committed by someone known to the victim. Among solved homicides in 2003, 209 (51%) were committed by an acquaintance, 139 (34%) were committed by a family member, and 57 (14%) by a stranger. The 57 victims killed by a stranger was the lowest number in more than 25 years.
- In 2003, there were 78 victims killed by their spouse (current and ex), 6 fewer than in 2002 resulting in a decline (-8%) in the spousal homicide rate for the second year in a row. Spousal homicides continue to account for one out of every five solved homicides and more than half (56%) of all family-related homicides.
- There were 33 homicides committed against children under the age of 12 in 2003, the lowest number in more than 25 years. Most homicides perpetrated against children were committed by a parent. As has been the case every year, infants (under one year of age) had the highest rates of child victimization (4.23 per 100,000 infants).
- In 2003, more than two-thirds (69%) of adult accused and 39% of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Slightly more than half (52%) of all adult victims and 15% of youth victims also had a criminal record.
- There were 57 youth accused of homicide in 2003, 15 more than in 2002. This is the second consecutive annual increase since the low reached in 2001. All of the increase in 2003 was due to an increase in male youth.



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Introduction

Homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but because it is generally recognized by experts as a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

As part of the Homicide Survey¹, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada. This *Juristat* examines the short and long-term homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Detailed information describing the characteristics associated with homicide incidents, victims and accused persons is also presented.

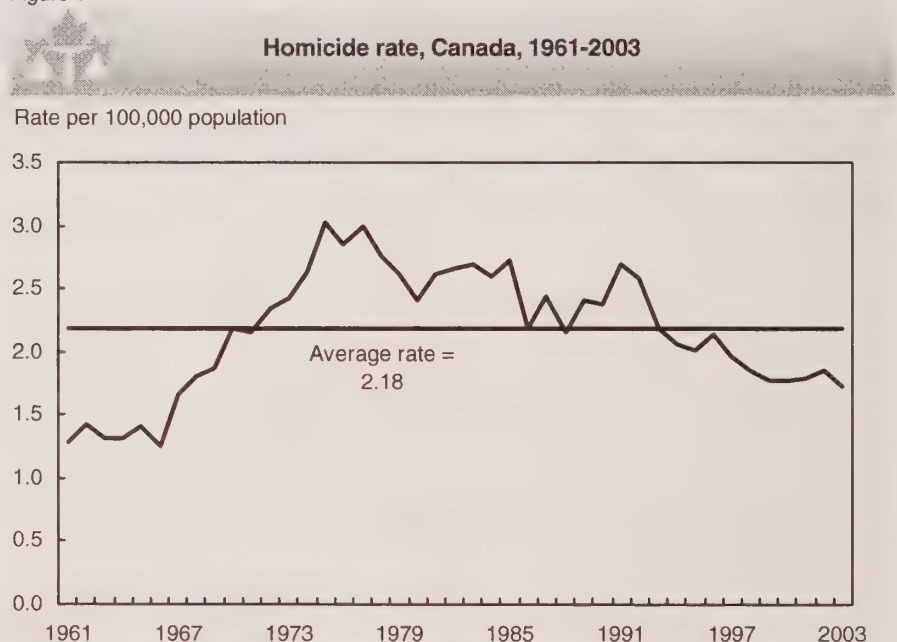
General Trends

Lowest homicide rate since 1967

In 2003, Canadian police services reported a total of 548 homicides (34 fewer than the previous year) (Table 13). Compared to other types of violence, homicide is a relatively rare occurrence. In 2003, there were 710 attempted murders (up from 678 in 2002), about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 235,000 other assaults². In comparison, nearly 3,700 people committed suicide in 2001 (the latest year for which figures are available)³.

The 2003 national homicide rate was 1.73 victims per 100,000 population, the lowest recorded rate since 1967 (Table 14). Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two major trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled and reached a peak of 3.03 homicide victims (per 100,000 persons) in 1975. Since 1975, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually declined (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

1. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
2. Wallace, Marnie (2004). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 24, No. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
3. Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database.

The rate in 2003 was 7% lower than the previous year and 43% lower than in 1975. The decline in 2003 was largely driven by a 16% decrease in Quebec, which reported its lowest rate since 1967, and British Columbia where the homicide rate fell by 27% from 2002⁴. With 7 fewer homicides, the rate in Alberta fell by 11%.

Homicides rise slightly in the United States

Throughout the 1990s, the crime and homicide rates have also been gradually declining in the United States. According to 2003 preliminary statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation⁵, the number of violent crimes reported in the United States decreased 3% from 2002. However, homicides were up slightly in 2003, rising 1% from the previous year.

While the 2003 homicide rate in Canada was more than three times lower than the U.S. rate, it was still higher than some European countries, such as Germany and Switzerland (Table 1). In 2003, Canada's homicide rate was similar to the rate in France⁶.

Table 1

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2003	
Country	Rate per 100,000 population
United States ¹	5.69
Turkey	5.57
Hungary	2.22
Armenia	2.00
England and Wales ²	1.93
Poland	1.79
Canada	1.73
France	1.65
Australia ³	1.63
Northern Ireland	1.53
Denmark	1.21
Greece	1.12
Switzerland	0.99
Germany	0.99
Scotland	0.64
Japan	0.51

1. Based upon preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release, May 24, 2004.
2. Based upon 2002-03 fiscal year data. Povey, D. (2004). *Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003: Supplementary Volume 1: Homicide and Gun Crime*. Crime and Policing Group, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS), London.
3. Based upon 2002-03 fiscal year data. Mouzos, J. & Segrave, M. (2004). *Homicide in Australia. 2002-2003 National Homicide Mentoring Program (NHMP) Annual Report*. Research and Public Policy Series, no. 55. Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.

Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

Geographical patterns

Lowest homicide rate in Quebec and Nova Scotia since the 1960s

Historically, homicide rates in the Atlantic provinces have remained well below the national average (Table 14). This trend continued in 2003, with Prince Edward Island (0.73) reporting

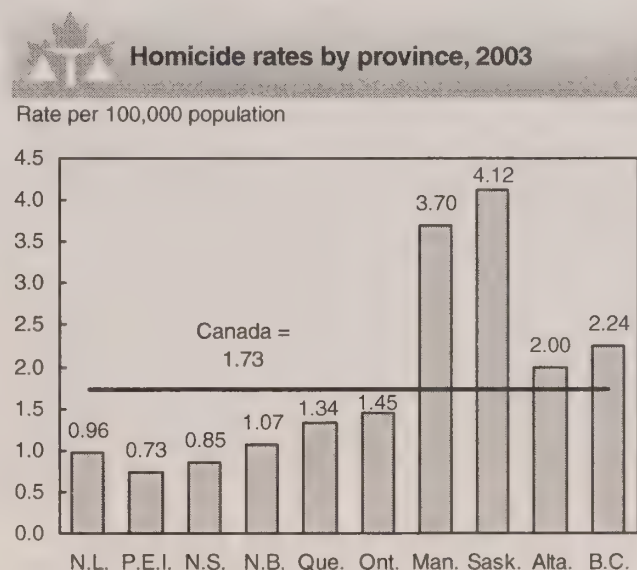
the lowest rate in Canada followed by Nova Scotia (0.85), which reported its lowest rate since 1963. Newfoundland and Labrador (0.96) was one of only three provinces to see an increase in 2003, although it remained well below the Canadian average (1.73).

Over the past 30 years, the rate in Quebec has tended to equal or exceed the national average. In both 2002 and 2003, however, Quebec fell well below the overall rate. In 2003, Quebec (1.34) reported its lowest rate since 1967. Further, Quebec's rate was below that of Ontario (1.45) for only the second time since 1967.

The four western provinces have consistently reported rates above the national average. While all four provinces reported higher rates than the rest of Canada in 2003, Alberta (2.00) and British Columbia (2.24)⁷ were lower than the previous year. On the other hand, Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported increases in their rates of homicide. The number of homicides in Saskatchewan increased from 27 in 2002 to 41 in 2003, resulting in the highest rate (4.12) among the provinces and its highest rate since 1977.

Because of their relatively small populations, the rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to be considerably higher than the rest of Canada even though the actual number of homicides each year is consistently low. In 2003, the combined number of homicides reported by the three territories totalled eight, with the rates in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut being far greater than any of the provinces.

Figure 2



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

4. There were 11 homicides reported by British Columbia in 2003 that actually occurred in previous years. Six of these were the result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. In 2002, there were 15 homicides reported by British Columbia that occurred in previous years, all of which were the result of the investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C.
5. U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release. May 24, 2004.
6. National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.
7. See footnote 4.

Historic lows in Montréal and Québec

Violent crime, particularly homicide, is often considered to be a phenomenon of large cities. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as non-CMA areas typically report a homicide rate similar to those in census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁸. In fact, in 2003, areas with less than 100,000 populations reported a combined rate (1.87) that was higher than Canada's CMAs as a whole (1.66).

Table 3 divides the CMAs into two major population categories. The first category is comprised of Canada's nine largest CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these large urban centres have tended to report higher rates of homicide than the smaller CMAs. This trend continued in 2003 with the combined rate in the larger CMAs (1.70) being higher than the combined rate in the smaller CMAs (1.50).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs reported 45 fewer homicides in 2003 than in 2002. This decline was led by large drops in Vancouver⁹ and Montréal. The 2003 rates in both Québec (0.42) and Montréal (1.59) were at their lowest point since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981.

Although recording the highest rate for the fourth year in a row, Winnipeg's rate actually declined by 22% between 2002 and 2003. Toronto and Ottawa were the only two large CMAs to report increases in their rates over the previous year. With 95 homicides, Toronto's rate (1.86) was slightly above the national average.

The second CMA category is comprised of the 19 smaller-sized urban areas with populations between 100,000 and 499,999 residents. The highest rates were reported by Abbotsford (5.07) and Regina (5.06). It should be noted that, because of the small number of homicides in these communities and their relatively small populations, a small increase in the number of homicides in these areas will have a large impact on the rates. There were no homicides reported by Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Saguenay in 2003. Halifax's rate (0.79) was its lowest since 1983.

Table 4 shows the distribution of homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of Canada's largest municipal police forces. This table illustrates how homicide rates can vary within a CMA. For example, for the Toronto and Montréal CMAs, the largest and mainly inner-city police services reported a higher rate in both 2003 and 2002 than the other more suburban police services. However, this is not always the case as shown by the Vancouver CMA in 2002.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Half of all homicides are first-degree murders

Among the 528 homicide incidents reported by police in 2003¹⁰, nearly half (49%) were classified as first degree murder¹¹. Another 39% were second degree murder, 12% were manslaughter and 1% were infanticide (see Glossary section for definitions). These proportions have remained very consistent for more than a decade.

Homicides in correctional institutions

Each year there tend to be some homicides that occur within a provincial or federal correctional institution. In 2003, there were 8 homicides that occurred in a Canadian correctional institution, a little higher than the average of 5 each year over the previous 10-year period.

According to the methodology used by the Homicide Survey, if the institution is geographically located within the boundaries of a census metropolitan area (CMA), any homicides that occur in that facility are included in the calculation of the rate for the corresponding CMA.

For example, in 2003, there were 5 homicides that occurred within the CMA boundaries of Kingston, Ontario resulting in a rate of 3.25 per 100,000 population. However, 3 of the 5 homicides occurred within the confines of a correctional institution that was located within the CMA boundaries. Had these three homicides been excluded from the calculation of the rate, the rate for Kingston would have been much lower (1.30 per 100,000 population).

Three-quarters of homicide incidents solved by police

When police investigation leads to the identification of an accused person against whom a charge can be laid, the incident is considered to be solved. An incident may also be solved when it is "cleared otherwise" for circumstances such as the death of the accused. In general, homicide incidents tend to be solved by police at a higher rate compared to other types of violent crime. In 2003, three-quarters (75%) or 395 of the 528 homicide incidents were solved by police, similar to the rate reported in previous years. It is important to note that the process of solving a homicide is often complex and time-consuming and an incident may not be solved until after it has been reported by police to the Homicide Survey. Therefore, these data likely underestimate final police clearance rates. Should an incident later become solved, this information is updated on the Homicide Survey upon notification by police.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (63%) of homicide incidents in 2003 occurred in a private residence¹². Among these incidents, 43% occurred in the victim's home and 32%

8. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.
9. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2003 and 15 homicides included in the total for 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. It should be noted that homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
10. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.
11. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change may not be reflected in this report.
12. Excludes 17 incidents in which the specific location of the incident was reported by police as "unknown".

Why has Canada's homicide rate been declining?

Despite annual fluctuations, the national homicide rate has been decreasing since the mid-1970s (Figure 1). This decline is also evident at the provincial and territorial levels (Table 14) as well as among most major Canadian CMAs. No single explanation can account for the decrease in the homicide rate as research findings suggest that an inter-related set of factors may be responsible.

One factor that has been suggested to have had an impact on homicide rates is new advancements and improvements in medical technology and emergency response systems. Research in the United States has asserted that without recent developments in trauma care, the homicide rate would likely be three to five times higher^a. Whether or not these findings are applicable to Canada remains questionable. American researchers looked at data over the past 40 years and found that, while the U.S. murder rate has gradually decreased, the rate of aggravated assault has increased. Over the past 20 years in Canada, however, not only has the homicide rate declined, but the rates of aggravated assault (-23%) and attempted murder (-38%) have experienced corresponding declines^b.

Other research has suggested that legislative gun control laws may have impacted Canada's homicide rate. Bridges (2004)^c contends that restricting the availability of firearms may help reduce the number of firearm-related homicides. Leenaars and Lester (2001)^d lend support for this position having found that gun legislation may affect firearm-homicide rates, particularly for incidents involving older adults and female victims. However, others question the effects of firearm legislation on violent crime, including homicide^e. Data from the Homicide Survey show declines in the rate of firearm-related homicides since the mid-1970s (Figure 5); however, further research is required to determine if this is related to the enactment of gun legislation.

Additional research points to the effects of an aging population on the rates of homicide in Canada. A recent study by Leenaars and Lester (2004)^f showed that when socio-economic variables (e.g. birth, divorce and unemployment) were controlled, the declining proportion of the youth population (age 15 to 24 years) was the only significant predictor of the decline in the homicide rate. However, Sprott and Cesaroni (2002) found that changes in demographics appear to account for only about 14% of Canada's decreasing homicide rate^g.

Blumstein and Rosenfeld (1998)^h suggested that "get-tough" policies on sentencing and incarceration were responsible for the drop in the U.S. homicide rate. However, this explanation does not appear to hold true in Canada as the use of incarceration for both adults and youth has declined over the past decadeⁱ.

The increased use of police personnel has also been suggested as a possible correlate to the decline in the homicide rate in the U.S. where per capita rates of police officers have increased substantially^k. This finding does not appear to apply to Canada, however, where the rate of police officers per 100,000 population has decreased since 1975^l.

Drug market trends have also been linked to homicide trends^b. In the U.S., the rise and fall of drug market trends (particularly crack cocaine)

over the past 25 years have coincided with the rate of homicide. Similar patterns have occurred in Canada, although to a lesser extent. Persons charged with cocaine offences have fallen steadily since the early 1990s^m, fairly similar to the trend in homicide.

Looking at spousal homicides, several family and societal conditions have been explored by researchers as possible factors in the declining spousal homicide rate. Blumstein and Rosenfeld (1998) suggested that the decrease in homicides involving intimate partners was the result of a drop in domesticityⁿ (defined as declining marriage rates, older age at marriage and high divorce rates). Other societal changes that have been suggested to explain the decline include the changing nature of intimate relationships, increasing gender equality, criminal and civil legislative changes, policy and procedural changes (such as specialized domestic violence courts), training of criminal justice personnel and increasing availability of resources for victims of domestic violenceⁿ.

Forthcoming research by Pottie Bunge^o will examine the association between declining homicide rates and a number of economic and demographic factors.

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- ^a Harris, A.R., S.H. Thomas, G.A. Fisher, and D.J. Hirsh. (2002). "Murder and medicine: The lethality of criminal assault 1960-1999". *Homicide Studies*. Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 129-166.
- ^b Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2004.
- ^c Bridges, F.S. (2004). "Gun control law (Bill C-17), suicide, and homicide in Canada". *Psychological Reports*. Vol. 94, pp. 819-826.
- ^d Leenaars, A.A. and D. Lester. (2001). "The impact of gun control (Bill C-51) on homicide in Canada". *Journal of Criminal Justice*. Vol. 29, pp. 287-294.
- ^e Mundt, R.J. (1990). "Gun control and rates of firearms violence in Canada and the United States". *Canadian Journal of Criminology*. Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 137-154.
- ^f Leenaars, A.A. and D. Lester. (2004). "Understanding the declining Canadian homicide rate: A test of Holinger's Relative Cohort Size Hypothesis". *Death Studies*. Vol. 28, pp. 263-265.
- ^g Sprott, J.B. and C. Cesaroni. (2002). "Similarities in homicide trends in the United States and Canada: Guns, crack or simple demographics". *Homicide Studies*. Vol. 6, No. 4, pp. 348-359.
- ^h Blumstein, A. and R. Rosenfeld. (1998). "Explaining recent trends in U.S. homicide rates". *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. Vol. 88, No. 4, pp. 1175-1216.
- ⁱ Carrière, D. (2003). "Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02". *Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE*, Vol. 23, No. 11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ^j Marinelli, J. "Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2001/02". *Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE*, Vol. 24, No. 3. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ^k Eck, J. & E. Maguire. (2000). "Have changes in policing reduced violent crime? An assessment of the evidence". In Blumstein, A. and J. Wallman (eds.) *The Crime Drop in America*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 207-265.
- ^l Shankarraman, G. (2003). "Police Resources in Canada, 2003". *Catalogue 85-225-XIE*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ^m Desjardins, N. and T. Hotton. (2004). "Trends in drug offences and the role of alcohol and drugs in crime". *Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE*, Vol. 24, No. 1. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ⁿ Pottie Bunge, V. (2002). "National trends in intimate partner homicides, 1974-2000". *Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE*, Vol. 22, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ^o Pottie Bunge, V. "Exploring crime patterns in Canada: Four decades of Change". Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Forthcoming.

occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (88%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

The locations of the remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 26% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 6% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bank, bar or restaurant); 3% in a public institution (high school, hospital, public transportation facility or correctional institution/halfway house); and 2% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi.

Multiple-victim incidents remain lower than average

The vast majority of homicide incidents involve one victim; however, in 2003, about 4% of all incidents involved multiple victims. There were 19 multiple-victim incidents, one more than the previous year but less than the previous 10-year average of 29.

Eighteen of the multiple-victim incidents involved two victims and one incident involved three victims for a total of 39 victims.

The cases were cleared through the identification of an accused person for 23 of the 39 victims, a much lower clearance rate than in previous years. Among the 23 victims in which an accused was identified, 10 were killed by a family member, 10 by an acquaintance and 3 by a stranger. Most of the victims were male (69%) and all of the identified accused persons were male.

Murder-suicides drop in 2003

Like multiple-victim homicides, those that culminate in the suicide of the accused are fairly rare. In 2003, there were 29 murder-suicide incidents (involving 35 victims), 10 less than the previous 10-year average. Other than in 2000 when there were also 29 incidents, there were fewer murder-suicides in 2003 than in any of the past 25 years.

The majority of murder-suicides involved the killing of family members (77%). Of the 35 victims, 17 were killed by their husband (current or ex), 1 by a wife, 5 by a father, 2 by a mother and 2 by another family member. The eight victims (23%) that were killed by a non-family member occurred as a result of a dispute between acquaintances over a relationship, drugs or money.

The vast majority of the murder-suicide perpetrators in 2003 were male and all but one incident involved a single accused. Conversely, victims were more than twice as likely to be female (24 female victims versus 11 male victims).

Gang-related homicides increase

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police that occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang (see Glossary section for definitions). Examples include killing a rival gang member over a "turf war" or a drug debt. Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Collection of gang-related information was standardized on the Homicide Survey in 1991. Between 1991 and 1998, the number of victims of gang-related homicide more than doubled from 22 to 51. Over the next four years, the number of victims remained higher than in earlier years but fairly stable.

However, in 2003, the number of victims of gang-related homicide nearly doubled again, from 46 in 2002 to 84 in 2003 (Table 5). Part of this increase was due to the Toronto Police Service having changed their definition of "gang-related homicide" to the standard definition used by the Homicide Survey¹³. As such, the Toronto Police Service reported 31 victims, almost quadruple their 2002 figure of 8.

Because of the change in reporting practices by the Toronto Police Service, the number of gang-related victims doubled in Ontario (up from 19 to 38). The number of victims reported in Quebec also rose from the previous year (up from 7 to 15), but remained lower than the 10-year average.

Due to the high involvement of drug activity among gang-related homicides, the most common motive underlying these homicides was the settling of accounts (e.g. drug debts,

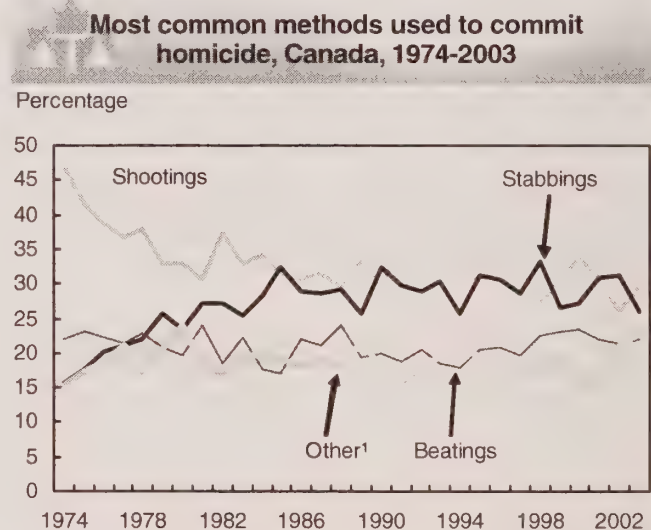
disputes over money and "turf wars"), representing 51% of all gang-related homicides¹⁴. Revenge was the motive behind another 19% of gang-related homicides and arguments accounted for 17%. Other motives such as jealousy, frustration, financial gain, fear of apprehension and random killing accounted for the remaining 13%.

Methods used to commit homicide

Slight increase in shootings and large drop in stabbings

Over the past decade, the methods used to commit homicide have remained relatively stable (Table 6, Figure 3). In 2003, 161 victims were shot to death (29%), up by 9 victims from 2002 but lower than the previous 10-year average of 180 victims. However, there was a large drop in the number of victims stabbed to death, down from 182 victims in 2002 to 142 victims (26%) in 2003, resulting in the lowest number of fatal stabbings since 1980. Another 22% of victims were beaten, 12% were strangled or suffocated, 2% died from being shaken (Shaken Baby Syndrome) and 2% from fire (smoke, inhalation or burns). Poisoning, deaths caused by a motor vehicle and other causes (such as exposure, hypothermia or heart attack) each accounted for 1% of all homicides (Figure 4). The remaining methods used to commit homicide were reported by police as unknown (4%)¹⁵.

Figure 3



1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, heart attacks, unknown method, etc.

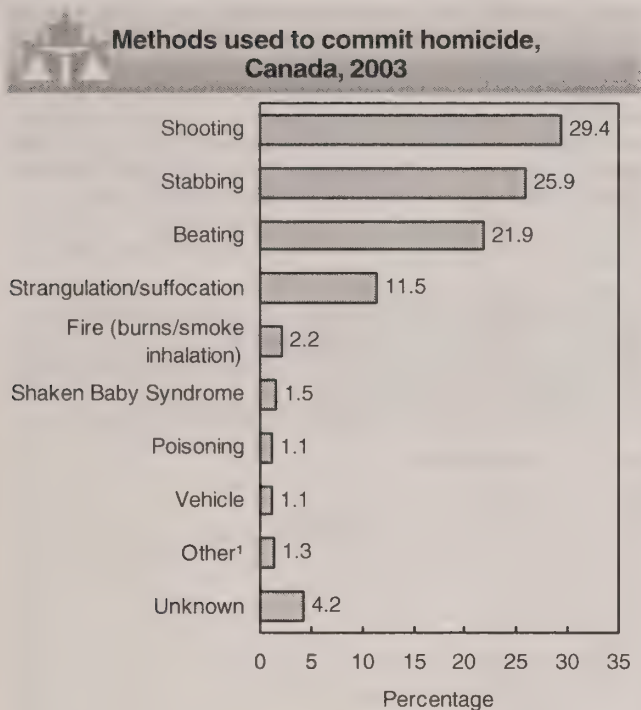
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

13. Given the change in definition by the Toronto Police Force, 2003 gang-related homicide figures are not comparable to previous years.

14. Excludes 15 victims in which the motive was reported by police as "unknown".

15. There were 15 victims in 2002 and 6 victims in 2003 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported method used to commit homicide as "unknown".

Figure 4



1. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, heart attack, hemorrhage and complications at birth.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Firearm Legislation

In 1969, Parliament enacted Bill C-150 and amended the *Criminal Code* which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm" which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories.

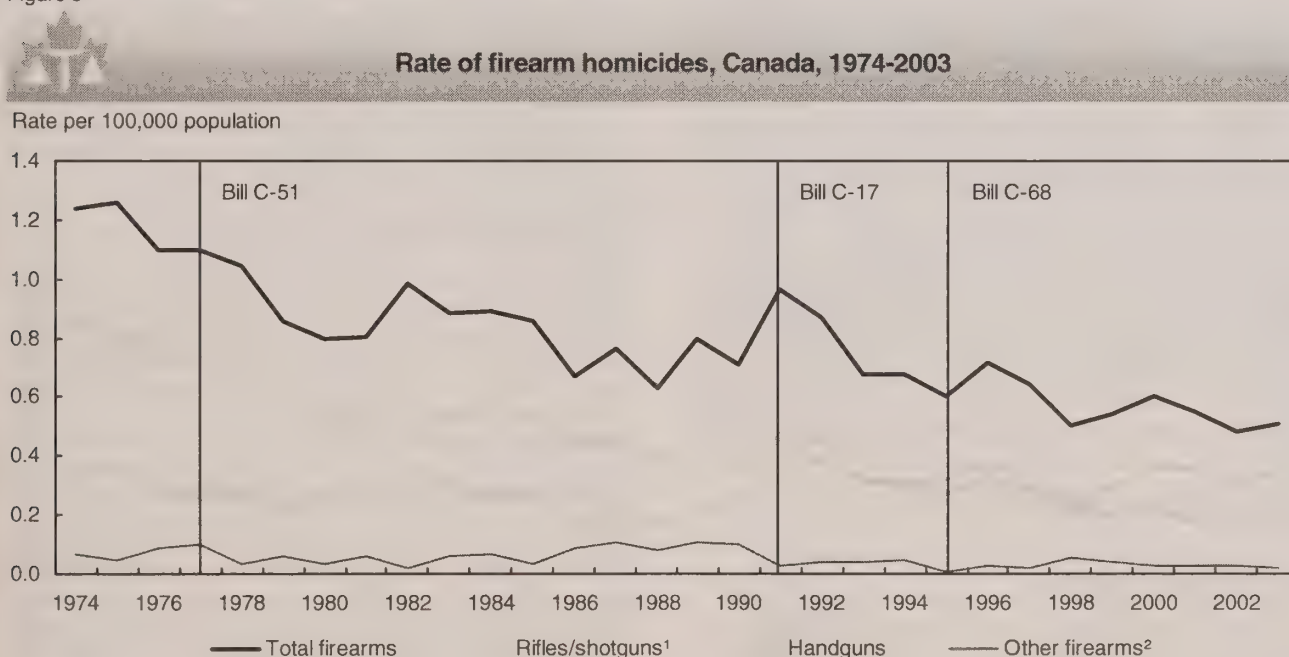
In 1977, Parliament enacted Bill C-51 and amended the *Criminal Code* requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors. Mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms were also introduced.

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, picture, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated.

In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms. All firearm owners and users are now required to obtain a firearms licence, and all firearms had to be registered by January 2003 (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns).

Figure 5 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1974 and 2003, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates.

Figure 5



Note: See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Proportion of handguns used in firearm-related homicides continues to rise

Homicides actually account for a relatively small proportion of all firearm-related fatalities. According to 2001 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 842 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (77%) were due to suicide, 18% to homicide and 3% to accidental discharge¹⁶.

Among the 161 firearm-related homicides in 2003, 109 (68%) were committed with a handgun, 32 with a rifle/shotgun (20%), 13 (8%) with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 2 (1%) with a fully automatic firearm and 5 (3%) with another type of firearm (Table 7).

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were far more commonly used than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. By 2003, handguns accounted for two-thirds of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns accounted for about one in five.

Most firearms used to commit homicide not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began to collect additional information on firearm-related homicides including: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) or Firearms License by the accused, firearm status (lost, stolen or missing) and classification of the weapon. It is important to note that a substantial portion of firearm-related information has been reported to the Homicide Survey as "unknown" by police either because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going. The following analysis refers only to homicides where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

The available data suggest that most firearms used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused persons were not licensed firearm users. Studies in Australia and England and Wales have found similar results¹⁷. Between 1997 and 2003 in Canada, the registration status was known for 46% of firearm-related homicides. Of these, 86% were not registered. Four out of every five (80%) accused persons did not possess a valid FAC or Firearms License. Where ownership of the firearm could be determined by police, the accused owned the firearm in 60% of these homicides, compared to 8% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (32%).

Accused-victim relationship

Lowest number of homicides committed by a stranger in over 25 years

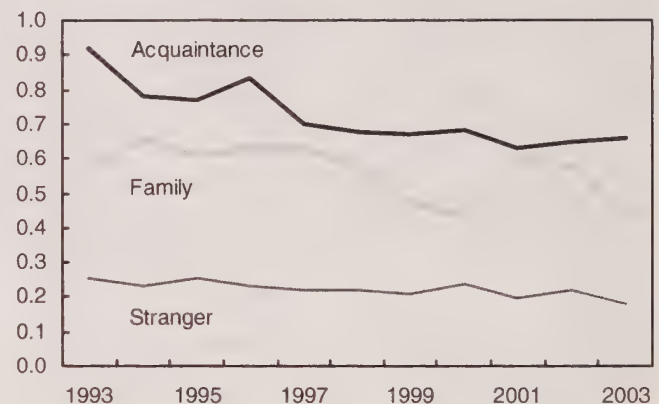
As part of the Homicide Survey, information is collected on the relationship between accused persons and their victims. However, analysis of this information is limited to those homicides in which an accused person has been identified (i.e. solved cases).

Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger (Figure 6). Among solved homicides in 2003, 86% of victims knew their killer (Table 8). Half (51%) of victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family) and another one-third (34%) were killed by a family member. The remaining 14% of victims were killed by strangers. The 57 homicides (0.18 per 100,000 population) in which a stranger was identified as the perpetrator represented the lowest number in more than 25 years.

Figure 6

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Of those killed by an acquaintance, about half (49%) of the 209 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. Another 15% of victims were killed by a close friend and 21% were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Large decline in family-related homicides

Family homicides are those that are committed by a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption¹⁸. In 2003, there were 139 family homicides, a 24% drop from 2002 and well below the previous 10-year average (172). In fact, between 2002 and 2003, most categories of family homicides declined or remained stable. The largest declines occurred within the non-spousal category.

Spousal homicides continue to decline

Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such

16. Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database.

17. Mouzos, J. (2000). "The licensing and registration status of firearms used in homicide". Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice. Australian Institute of Criminology. No. 151.

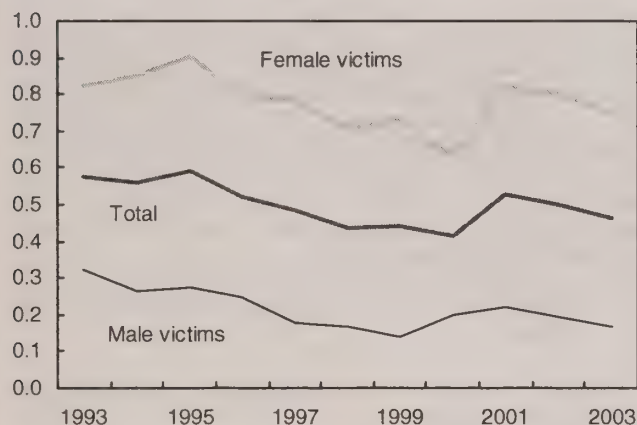
18. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see Brzozowski, J.A. (2004). "Family Violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2004". Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

unions and those in common-law relationships (including same sex spouses). In 2003, 78 victims were killed by their spouse, slightly lower than in 2002 as well as the previous 10-year average, resulting in a decline in the spousal homicide rate for the second year in a row (-8%). Despite this decrease, spousal homicides continued to account for one out of every five solved homicides and more than half (56%) of all family homicides (Table 8). As is generally the case, the 2003 spousal homicide rate against females (0.75 per 100,000 female spouses) was about four to five times higher than that for males (0.17 per 100,000 male spouses) (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Spousal homicide rate, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 spouses¹



1. Spouses includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the provinces, the highest rate of spousal homicide in 2003 was in Saskatchewan, (1.57 homicides per 100,000 spouses) (Table 9). Saskatchewan also reported the highest average spousal homicide rate over the past 10 years. Alberta, which reported the highest rate in 2002, reported 9 spousal homicides in 2003, down from 15 the previous year. It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations.

Homicides involving other types of intimate partner relationships (boyfriend, girlfriend, current or estranged lovers) also dropped in 2003. There were 11 homicides committed by a non-spousal intimate partner (3 male victims and 8 female victims), 6 fewer than in 2002 and about half the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (20). Among solved homicides (involving victims who were 15 years and older), almost two-thirds (64%) of females were killed by someone with whom they had a relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating compared to 7% of males. Males were far more likely to be the victims of homicide committed by acquaintances and strangers.

Lowest rate of child homicide victims in over 25 years

The number of homicides perpetrated against children (under 12 years of age) declined in 2003, reaching its lowest point in more than 25 years. Over the past 10 years, there have been, on average, 49 homicides perpetrated against children each year compared to 33 in 2003 (Table 10). Typically, infants have accounted for the highest rates of homicides among all child victims. This pattern continued in 2003 with 14 infants having been killed, a rate of about 4 per 100,000 infants.

Parents continued to be the most likely perpetrators of child homicide. Among the 33 child victims, parents were responsible for 23 homicides. Given that some incidents involve more than one parent, the actual number of accused parents in 2003 was 13 fathers (including 4 step-fathers) and 11 mothers (including 1 step-mother). Two strangers and two daycare providers were accused of child homicide, and six were unsolved.

Shaken Baby Syndrome

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). SBS is a form of child abuse that refers to the violent shaking of a baby or young child. SBS can occur at any age but is most frequent in infants (less than one year of age) as a baby's demands, especially crying, can become the trigger for a frustrated or stressed parent or caregiver to shake the child. The outcome for infants who are violently shaken can range from no apparent effects to permanent disabling brain damage, blindness, seizures, paralysis and even death.

In 2003, police reported that 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) were killed as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome, the same number as in the previous two years. It is important to note that incidents of SBS that result in death may be under-counted due to missed diagnoses.

Characteristics of victims and accused¹⁹

Males account for the majority of accused and victims

Among solved homicides in 2003, there were 509 accused persons identified (Table 11), of which almost 9 in 10 were male, consistent with previous years. The rate of accused persons peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. This pattern is particularly evident among males (Figure 8).

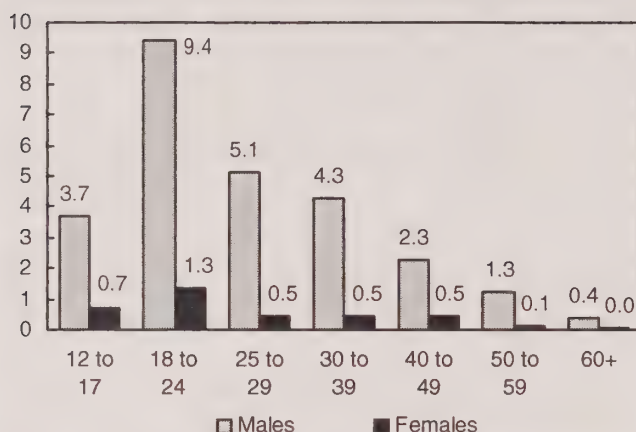
As with accused persons, most victims of homicide in 2003 were male (72%). There were 156 female victims, 50 fewer than in 2002 and well below the previous 10-year average of 187. In contrast, the number of male homicide victims increased by 16 in 2003.

19. Based upon cases where Aboriginal origin was known, Aboriginal people accounted for 19% of those accused of homicide and 15% of victims. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police forces (including the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal status of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey. In other cases, this information was not known to police at the time data were reported to the Homicide Survey. In 2003, Aboriginal origin was reported by police for 56% of victims and 55% of accused.

Figure 8

Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2003

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

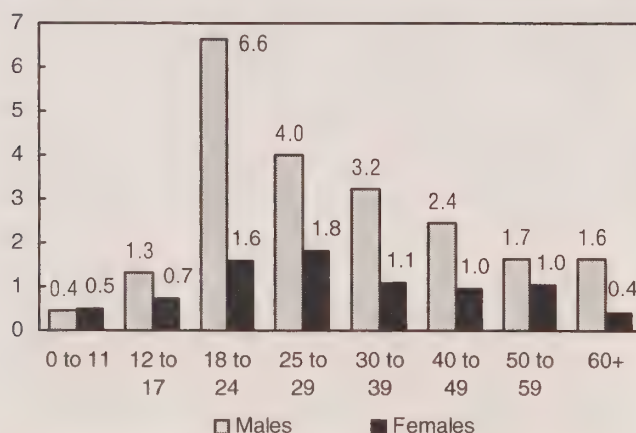
Male victimization peaked at age 18 to 24 years; however, female victimization peaked at age 25 to 29. After 30 years of age, the risk of becoming a victim of homicide generally declined for both sexes (Figure 9). The rate of victimization among male seniors (age 60 and older) was four times that of female seniors.

The age at which male and female victimization peaked reflects differences in the types of accused-victim relationships. Males are more typically victimized by non-intimate acquaintances whereas females are more typically victimized by their current/ex intimate partners.

Figure 9

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2003

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Two-thirds of adult accused and half of all adult victims had a criminal record

In 2003, more than two-thirds (69%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record²⁰. Among those adults with a criminal history, two-thirds had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 5 for homicide, 49 for robbery and 149 for another type of violent offence. Another 16% of adults with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 6% for a drug conviction and 12% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Among the 57 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2003, 39% had a criminal history. Half of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). Another 36% had a prior conviction for a property offence, 5% for a drug conviction and 9% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Half (52%) of all adult homicide victims (18 years or older) had a Canadian criminal record²¹. Half (51%) of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 8 for homicide, 27 for robbery and 91 for another violent offence. Six of the eight homicides committed against victims who had a previous homicide conviction were gang-related. Another 15% of adult victims with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 11% for a drug conviction and 24% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Of the 26 youth victims (12 to 17 years), 4 (15%) had a previous criminal history.

Youth homicide

Homicides committed by youth rise

In 2003, there were 57 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, 15 more than in 2002. This is the second consecutive annual increase since the low reached in 2001 and higher than the previous 10-year average of 49 (Table 12). The rate of youth homicide in 2003 returned to levels seen during the mid-to-late 1990s (Figure 10).

The rise in the overall number and rate was the result of an increase in young males accused of homicide. In 2003, there were 48 male youth accused of homicide, 15 more than in 2002, resulting in a 45% increase in the rate (from 2.6 per 100,000 male youth to 3.7).

Youth represented about 11% of all those accused of homicide, somewhat higher than the average of 9% seen over the previous decade. As is the case historically, youth were more likely than adults to kill other youth and young adults. Of the solved homicides committed by youth in 2003, 54% of the victims were between 12 and 24 years compared to 27% of homicides committed by adults.

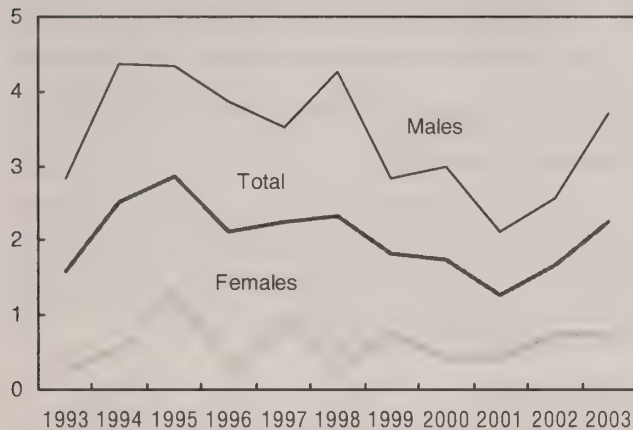
20. Excludes 8 accused in which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as "unknown".

21. Excludes 13 victims in which police reported previous conviction for criminal activities as "unknown".

Figure 10

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 youth



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Of the 41 homicides committed by youth in 2003, 9 were reported by police to be gang-related, representing almost one out of every five youth homicides. This number is up from an average of 3 over the previous 10 years.

Precipitating factors

Most accused and victims were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide²². Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor²³, police reported that the majority of victims (61%) and accused persons (71%) were under the influence at the time of the homicide. Males, as both victims and accused persons, were more likely to have used alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide compared to their female counterparts.

One-third of homicides motivated by an argument

According to police, homicides that were incited by an argument or quarrel accounted for about one-third (34%) of incidents²⁴. Another 30% of homicides were associated with feelings of frustration, despair, revenge and/or jealousy and a further one in four incidents (25%) was motivated by financial gain or settling of accounts. Six incidents were reported by police to be random. There were no homicides in 2003 that were reported to have been motivated by hatred or political terrorism.

One in ten accused reported by police to have a mental health disorder

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as

schizophrenia, manic depression or developmental delays) among accused persons. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental condition of the accused person and is not necessarily supported by a medical or health professional's assessment. As such, it should be interpreted with some caution.

Excluding cases in which mental status of the accused was unknown²⁵, police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 10% of accused persons in 2003, slightly lower than the percentage reported each year since 1997.

Half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Half (49%) of the homicide incidents in 2003 in which data were available occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide²⁶. Of these 199 incidents, the majority (148) were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 71 during an assault, 40 during a robbery, 7 during a sexual assault, 6 during a kidnapping/abduction, 4 as the result of stalking and 20 during other violent offences. Eight other homicide incidents occurred as a result of arson, 12 occurred as a result of other property offences (e.g. break and enter, theft) and 31 resulted from other types of criminal offences.

At-risk occupations

Some people are at greater risk for violence and homicide simply because of the nature of their profession. The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). It is important to note that the following analysis only includes those victims whose deaths resulted from their profession, either partly or entirely. For instance, if a prostitute was killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, then this homicide would not be counted in the prostitution-related statistics.

In 2003, police reported 11 prostitutes killed as a result of their profession. This figure was slightly higher than the average of eight over the past 10 years due to six homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam, B.C. in previous years being reported by police in 2003.

Six victims were killed during the course of legal employment: a bouncer, a mechanic, a building superintendent, a retail sales clerk, a gold miner and a taxi driver. There were no police officers murdered in 2003.

22. R.N. Parker & K. Auerhahn (1999). *Drugs, alcohol and homicide: issues in theory and research*. Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research. Edited by M.D. Smith and M.A. Zahn, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, pp. 176-191.

23. Excludes 171 victims and 184 accused persons where consumption of alcohol and/or drugs was reported by police as "unknown".

24. Excludes 82 incidents in which motive was reported by police as "unknown".

25. Excludes 153 accused for which mental health status was reported police as "unknown".

26. Excludes 118 incidents in which an associated or related offence was reported by police as "unknown".

Glossary of terms

Accused

An accused person is someone against whom enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a homicide incident. For the purposes of this report, the term “perpetrator” is used interchangeably with “accused”.

Homicide

A homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence and, therefore, not included in the Homicide Survey). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide (e.g. self-defence) are not included.

Homicide count

The homicide count reflects the number of homicide victims that become known to police and subsequently reported to the Homicide Survey in a given year. Since some homicides become known to police long after they occur, there are generally a few homicides included in a given year’s total that occurred in previous years.

Homicide rate

This technique standardizes data to permit comparisons over time and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

Incident

An incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused persons, the offences must occur at the **same location** and at the **same time** if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Infanticide

Infanticide occurs when a female wilfully causes the death of her newly-born child (under one year of age), if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or from lactation.

Manslaughter

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.

Murder

A murder occurs when a person intentionally, by a wilful act or omission, causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- (a) it is planned and deliberate; or
- (b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g. police officer, correctional worker); or
- (c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g. treason, kidnapping, hijacking, sexual assault, robbery and arson).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

Organized crime group

An organized crime group consists of a static or fluid group of (two or more) individuals who communicate, co-operate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network; and has, as one of its main purposes or activities, the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain.

Street gang

A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults and/or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, in order to obtain power and recognition and/or control specific areas of criminal activities.

Methodology

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. However, while the detailed characteristics of the manslaughter and infanticide incidents prior to 1974 are not available, the counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

The total count of homicides recorded each year equals the total number of homicides *known* by police departments and *reported* to the Homicide Survey during that year. Therefore, given that some homicides only become known to police long after they occur, some incidents that actually occurred in previous years will be counted in the year they are reported by police to the Homicide Survey.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Table 2

Homicides by province/territory

Province/territory	2003 ¹			2002 ^{2†}			Average 1993-2002	
	Population ³	Number of victims	Rate ⁴	Population ³	Number of victims	Rate ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁴
Newfoundland & Labrador	519,570	5	0.96	519,270	2	0.39	5	0.88
Prince Edward Island	137,781	1	0.73	136,998	1	0.73	1	0.96
Nova Scotia	936,025	8	0.85	934,392	9	0.96	17	1.79
New Brunswick	750,594	8	1.07	750,183	9	1.20	10	1.31
Quebec	7,487,169	100	1.34	7,443,491	118	1.59	139	1.90
Ontario	12,238,300	178	1.45	12,096,627	178	1.47	175	1.55
Manitoba	1,162,776	43	3.70	1,155,492	36	3.12	32	2.83
Saskatchewan	994,843	41	4.12	995,490	27	2.71	26	2.55
Alberta	3,153,723	63	2.00	3,114,390	70	2.25	61	2.13
British Columbia ⁵	4,146,580	93	2.24	4,114,981	126	3.06	109	2.79
Yukon	31,060	1	3.22	30,123	0	0.00	2	4.90
Northwest Territories ⁶	41,872	4	9.55	41,434	4	9.65	4	6.42
Nunavut ⁷	29,384	3	10.21	28,740	2	6.96	3	8.99
Canada	31,629,677	548	1.73	31,361,611	582	1.86	581	1.94

† revised

1. A total of 23 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Newfoundland; 1 in New Brunswick; 6 in Quebec; 1 in Ontario; 3 in Alberta and 11 in British Columbia.

2. A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Nova Scotia, 2 in Quebec, 13 in Ontario and 15 in British Columbia.

3. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2002: Updated postcensal estimates.

2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

5. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

6. Includes Nunavut prior to 1999.

7. The average in Nunavut is calculated from 1999-2002.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area	2003 ¹			2002 ²		Average 1993-2002	
	Population ³	Number of victims	Rate ^{4,5}	Number of victims	Rate ^{4,5}	Number of victims	Rate ^{4,5}
500,000+ population							
Toronto	5,118,992	95	1.86	90	1.79	78	1.71
Montréal	3,586,221	57	1.59	66	1.86	76	2.24
Vancouver ⁶	2,126,111	44	2.07	69	3.28	54	2.78
Calgary ⁷	1,023,666	11	1.07	15	1.49	15	1.62
Edmonton ⁷	997,938	22	2.20	27	2.73	23	2.50
Ottawa ^{8, 9}	866,621	10	1.15	8	0.93	10	1.28
Québec	709,323	3	0.42	3	0.43	10	1.40
Winnipeg	688,746	18	2.61	23	3.37	19	2.85
Hamilton	682,741	9	1.32	13	1.92	12	1.81
Total	15,800,359	269	1.70	314	2.01	296	2.04
100,000 - 499,999 population							
Kitchener	470,022	1	0.21	3	0.65	5	1.14
London	464,076	8	1.72	4	0.87	5	1.04
St. Catharines-Niagara	429,949	6	1.40	8	1.87	6	1.33
Halifax	377,932	3	0.79	5	1.34	7	2.12
Windsor	329,241	9	2.73	7	2.15	6	2.07
Victoria	323,592	5	1.55	3	0.95	6	2.07
Oshawa	319,935	1	0.31	0	0.00	2	0.84
Gatineau ¹⁰	276,933	3	1.08	6	2.21	4	1.56
Saskatoon	241,391	8	3.31	8	3.35	6	2.55
Regina	197,734	10	5.06	4	2.02	5	2.56
St. John's	177,843	2	1.12	1	0.57	2	1.31
Greater Sudbury	160,113	1	0.62	2	1.24	3	1.88
Abbotsford ¹¹	157,720	8	5.07	4	2.58	2	1.30
Kingston ^{11, 12}	153,707	5	3.25	3	1.97	3	1.65
Saguenay	148,061	0	0.00	1	0.67	1	0.73
Sherbrooke	145,766	0	0.00	1	0.70	2	1.28
Saint John	144,752	1	0.69	2	1.37	2	1.41
Trois-Rivières	144,262	0	0.00	2	1.39	2	1.39
Thunder Bay	124,628	1	0.80	1	0.80	3	2.41
Total	4,787,657	72	1.50	65	1.37	69	1.59
CMA totals	20,588,016	341	1.66	379	1.86	365	1.94
< 100,000 population^{7, 13}	11,041,661	207	1.87	203	1.84	216	1.94
Canada	31,629,677	548	1.73	582	1.86	581	1.94

¹ revised

1. A total of 23 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in St. John's; 1 in Saint John; 1 in Québec; 1 in Edmonton; 6 in Vancouver and 13 in areas < 100,000 population.
2. A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Halifax; 2 in Montréal; 5 in Toronto; 1 in Hamilton; 1 in London; 2 in Windsor; 15 in Vancouver and 5 in areas < 100,000 population.
3. Population estimates have been adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.
4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
5. Population estimates are supplied by Statistics Canada, Demography Division as of July 1st. Estimates from 1993 to 1995 are based upon 1991 Census boundaries. Estimates from 1996 to the most current year have been revised and adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries.
6. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2003 and 15 homicides included in the total for 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
7. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2002.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
9. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.
10. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
11. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2002.
12. Includes 3 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2003.
13. Includes 4 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest municipal police services¹

Police service	2003			2002 ^r		
	Population ²	Number of victims	Rate ³	Population ²	Number of victims	Rate ³
Toronto CMA Police Services⁴						
Toronto Police	2,611,661	66	2.53	2,615,390	65	2.49
Peel Regional Police	1,063,393	16	1.50	1,025,882	9	0.88
York Regional Police	851,705	10	1.17	807,056	12	1.49
Durham Regional Police ⁵	547,759	3	0.55	537,795	1	0.19
Halton Regional Police ⁵	413,454	3	0.73	402,373	1	0.25
Montreal CMA Police Services⁴						
Montréal Police	1,871,774	41	2.19	1,866,371	48	2.57
Longueuil Police	383,396	4	1.04	381,712	6	1.57
Laval Police	359,707	4	1.11	355,244	2	0.56
Vancouver CMA Police Services⁴						
Vancouver Police	569,814	19	3.33	570,186	13	2.28
Surrey (RCMP) Police	390,145	5	1.28	378,173	10	2.64
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	205,261	2	0.97	203,665	10	4.91
Richmond (RCMP) Police	174,201	1	0.57	173,545	5	2.88
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	936,270	8	0.85	922,614	15	1.63
Ottawa Police	823,608	10	1.21	816,961	8	0.98
Edmonton Police	702,379	17	2.42	694,457	24	3.46
Winnipeg Police	644,417	18	2.79	639,741	22	3.44
Québec Police	524,054	3	0.57	521,646	2	0.38
Hamilton Regional Police	516,776	8	1.55	514,220	11	2.14
Waterloo Regional Police	470,022	1	0.21	463,897	3	0.65
Niagara Regional Police	429,949	6	1.40	428,612	8	1.87
London Police	355,169	7	1.97	353,116	3	0.85
Gatineau-Métro Police	226,888	3	1.32	222,977	4	1.79
Windsor Police	221,091	9	4.07	219,513	7	3.19
Saskatoon Police	202,542	8	3.95	201,369	6	2.98
Halifax Regional Police	211,607	3	1.42	209,256	3	1.43
Regina Police	181,167	10	5.52	181,265	4	2.21
St. John's (RNC) Police	177,843	2	1.12	175,440	1	0.57
Greater Sudbury Police	160,113	1	0.62	160,735	2	1.24
Saguenay Police	148,061	0	0.00	149,425	1	0.67
Sherbrooke Regional Police	145,766	0	0.00	143,866	1	0.70

^r revised

1. Data in this table includes all homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of each police force.

2. Police Service population estimates were derived from 2003 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2002 updated postcensal estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

4. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver CMA's do not represent all of the police services in each CMA. In some cases, only portions of a police service are included in the CMA.

5. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Gang-related homicides, Canada, 1993-2003

	Total number of incidents	Total number of victims	Victims of gang- related homicide as a % of all homicides
1993	12	13	2.1
1994	23	24	4.0
1995	19	21	3.6
1996	26	29	4.6
1997	27	28	4.8
1998	48	51	9.1
1999	44	45	8.4
2000	65	72	13.2
2001	59	61	11.0
2002 ^r	44	46	7.9
2003 ¹	80	84	15.3
Average 1993-1997	21	23	3.5
Average 1998-2002	52	55	9.4

^r revised

1. In 2003, the Toronto Police Service changed their definition of "gang-related" homicide to be consistent with the national standard used by the Homicide Survey. This resulted in 31 victims being reported, almost quadruple their 2002 figure of 8.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
1993	195	31.1	191	30.5	116	18.5	77	12.3	...	...	17	2.7
1994	196	32.9	154	25.8	106	17.8	84	14.1	...	...	17	2.9
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	...	...	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	132	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	38	7.0	13	2.4	4	0.7
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002 ¹	152	26.1	182	31.3	125	21.5	66	11.3	8	1.4	8	1.4
2003	161	29.4	142	25.9	120	21.9	63	11.5	8	1.5	12	2.2
	Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown ³		Total			
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent		
1993	6	1.0	...	...	21	3.3	4	0.6	627	100.0		
1994	11	1.8	...	...	22	3.7	6	1.0	596	100.0		
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0		
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	11	1.7	635	100.0		
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100.0		
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100.0		
1999	5	0.9	13	2.4	6	1.1	8	1.5	538	100.0		
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	5	0.9	7	1.3	546	100.0		
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0		
2002 ¹	3	0.5	6	1.0	9	1.5	23	4.0	582	100.0		
2003	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	23	4.2	548	100.0		

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Data became available in 1997.

2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, heart attack, hemorrhage, complications at birth, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

3. Includes 15 victims in 2002 and 6 victims in 2003 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported the method used to commit homicide as "unknown".

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Homicides involving firearms, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Type of Firearm											Homicides involving firearms as a % of total homicides
	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Other firearms ¹		Total	
	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	
1993	91	46.7	75	38.5	11	5.6	17	8.7	1	0.5	195	31.1
1994	90	45.9	66	33.7	14	7.1	26	13.3	0	0.0	196	32.9
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	176	29.9
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	6	3.6	165	30.7
2000	108	58.7	57	31.0	4	2.2	11	6.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	5	2.9	171	30.9
2002 ¹	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	109	67.7	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	5	3.1	161	29.4
Average 1993-2002	96	53.6	62	34.0	7	3.6	13	7.0	3	1.8	180	30.9

^r revised

1. Other firearms include firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship¹, Canada

Relationship type (Victims killed by)	2003		2002 ²		Average 1993-2002	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
Family relationship						
<i>Spousal relationship</i>						
Husband (legal and common-law)	40	9.8	46	10.1	46	10.0
Husband (separated and divorced)	24	5.9	21	4.6	17	3.7
Wife (legal and common-law)	12	2.9	14	3.1	15	3.2
Wife (separated and divorced)	2	0.5	2	0.4	2	0.4
(Ex) Same sex spouse ²	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total spousal	78	19.2	84	18.5	80	17.4
<i>Non-spousal relationship</i>						
Father	19	4.7	28	6.2	28	6.1
Mother	11	2.7	8	1.8	15	3.2
Child	14	3.4	26	5.7	19	4.2
Sibling	6	1.5	11	2.4	9	2.0
Other family relation ³	11	2.7	25	5.5	20	4.3
Total non-spousal	61	15.0	98	21.5	92	19.8
Total family	139	34.2	182	40.0	172	37.2
Acquaintance						
(Ex) boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate	11	2.7	17	3.7	20	4.4
Close friend	32	7.9	29	6.4	30	6.5
Neighbour	12	1.5	6	1.3	19	4.0
Authority figure ²	2	0.5	2	0.4	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	7	2.5	10	2.2	11	2.4
Criminal relationship ⁴	43	13.5	55	12.1	38	8.2
Casual acquaintance	102	20.6	84	18.5	99	21.5
Total acquaintance	209	51.4	203	44.6	219	47.3
Stranger	57	14.0	69	15.2	68	14.7
Unknown relationship	2	0.5	1	0.2	3	0.7
Total solved homicides	407	100.0	455	100.0	462	100.0
Unsolved homicides	141	...	127	...	119	...
Total homicides	548	...	582	...	581	...

... figures not applicable

¹ revised

1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

2. Authority figure and same sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the average is calculated from 1997 to 2002.

3. Other family relation includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

4. Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2003		2002 ^r		Average 1993-2002	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Atlantic	4	0.31	1	0.08	5	0.37
Quebec	16	0.40	24	0.60	17	0.44
Ontario	21	0.32	25	0.39	28	0.46
Manitoba	4	0.67	2	0.34	3	0.55
Saskatchewan	8	1.57	4	0.79	4	0.76
Alberta	9	0.54	15	0.91	10	0.63
British Columbia	14	0.62	13	0.58	13	0.59
Territories ²	2	...	0	...	1	...
Canada	78	0.46	84	0.50	80	0.50

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1993-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001: Final postcensal estimates.

2002: Updated postcensal estimates.

2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Children (<12 years) killed by parents, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Actual number of accused in parent-child homicides			
				Father	Step-father	Mother	Step-mother
1993	46	32	6.4	13	4	14	0
1994 ^r	59	43	8.8	20	4	19	0
1995 ^r	53	36	7.4	19	2	12	1
1996 ^r	53	41	8.2	20	6	15	0
1997 ^r	65	53	11.4	19	4	23	1
1998 ^r	55	47	10.6	22	4	16	1
1999 ^r	36	26	6.3	13	3	9	0
2000	39	27	6.5	11	4	9	0
2001 ^r	39	30	6.8	12	2	11	1
2002 ^r	44	31	6.8	14	4	9	0
2003	33	23	5.7	9	4	10	1
Average 1993-2002	49	37	7.9	16	4	14	0

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1993	419	66.8	208	33.2	627	485	87.4	70	12.6	555
1994 ¹	396	66.6	199	33.4	595	510	88.4	67	11.6	577
1995	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	501	87.3	73	12.7	574
1996	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	494	88.7	63	11.3	557
1997	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	441	85.5	75	14.5	516
1998	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	464	87.7	65	12.3	529
1999	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	439	90.1	48	9.9	487
2000	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	419	88.2	56	11.8	475
2001	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	440	87.3	64	12.7	504
2002	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	470	89.2	57	10.8	527
2003	392	71.5	156	28.5	548	448	88.0	61	12.0	509
Average 1993-2002	394	67.8	187	32.2	581	466	88.0	64	12.0	530

1. Excludes 1 victim in which sex was reported by police as "unknown".

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1993	34	3	37	2.84	0.27	1.59	6.7
1994 ¹	53	6	59	4.38	0.52	2.50	10.2
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.8
1996	48	3	51	3.87	0.26	2.11	9.2
1997	44	11	55	3.51	0.93	2.25	10.7
1998	54	3	57	4.27	0.25	2.32	10.8
1999	36	9	45	2.84	0.75	1.82	9.2
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.1
2001 ¹	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.3
2002	33	9	42	2.56	0.73	1.67	8.0
2003	48	9	57	3.70	0.73	2.25	11.2
Average 1993-2002	42	7	49	3.36	0.58	2.01	9.2

¹ revised

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1993-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001: Final postcensal estimates.

2002: Updated postcensal estimates.

2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13

Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961-2003

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Yukon	N.W.T. ²	Nvt.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ³	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
2003	5	1	8	8	100	178	43	41	63	93	1	4	3	548

... figures not applicable

1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

3. Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 14

Homicide victim rates¹, by province/territory, 1961-2003

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Yukon	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada	% change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.37	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.59	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.65	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.34	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.00	2.24	3.22	9.55	10.21	1.73	-6.6

... figures not applicable

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates.

1971-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001: Final postcensal estimates.

2002: Updated postcensal estimates.

2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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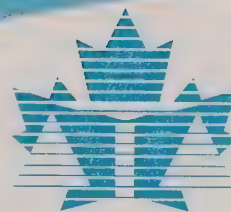
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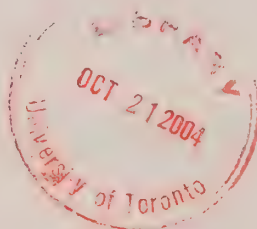


Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2002/03

by Julie Reitano

Highlights

- On any given day in 2002/03, there was an average of approximately 29,400 youths (aged 12 to 17) either in custody or under supervised probation in Canada among reporting jurisdictions. Most of the youth correctional population was in supervised probation (90%), with 7% in sentenced custody and 3% on remand status awaiting a court appearance or sentencing.
- The total rate of youths in correctional services including remand, sentenced custody and probation was 121 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 5% from 2001/02.
- The youth incarceration rate in 2002/03 was 13 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 5% from the previous year and a decline of one-third from 1993/94. This decline has been driven by decreases in sentenced custody.
- In 2002/03, there was an average daily count of about 850 youths in remand; 1,070 in secure custody and 1,060 in open custody. Youth on remand represented just over one-quarter (28%) of all youth in custody in 2002/03, up from 18% in 1993/94.
- Month-end supervised probation counts increased slightly in 2002/03, where on average approximately 26,400 youths were on supervised probation. The supervised probation rate was 109 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 17% since its peak in 1997/98.
- In 2002/03, there were approximately 23,900 youth admissions to custody. Remand admissions represented 61% of youth custodial admissions, with secure custody accounting for 19% and open custody for 18%.
- Time served by youth in remand is generally short – just over half of all remanded youth were released within one week. Nearly six in ten of young offenders in secure custody (57%) and 40% in open custody were released after one month or less.
- While Aboriginal youth accounted for 44% admissions to remand, 46% of sentenced custody admissions and 32% of probation admissions in jurisdictions providing these data in 2002/03, they account for approximately 8% of the youth in population for these jurisdictions.

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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides an overview of the youth correctional population (12- to 17-year-olds) in Canada for 2002/03¹. The data in this report represent the final full year of youth corrections activity under the *Young Offenders Act*, as the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect on April 1, 2003. The information in this *Juristat* describes trends in average counts and admissions to youth corrections.

The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Youth correctional supervision programs include secure and open custody, custodial remand and community-based programs such as probation and community service, and are administered under the authority of the provincial/territorial agencies responsible for youth corrections.

Custody is the most serious sentence that youths may receive, either secure or open. Secure custody refers to facilities designated for secure restraint. Open custody generally refers to facilities such as residential centres or group homes where restrictions on movements are less severe². Due to differences in policies and programs across provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth justice administration, there is variation in the level of restrictions in secure and open custody across Canada.

Community-based programs such as probation often include placing a number of conditions on the young offender for a specified period of time – up to two years. Probation orders are sometimes given in combination with other sanctions and at a minimum require the offender to keep the peace, be of good behaviour and appear before the court as required. Optional conditions may include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school³.

Youth may also be remanded to custody (temporary detention) on the basis of a decision by a judge that the youth poses a danger to society, that there may be a risk of failure to appear for court hearings or for any other just cause, and where the detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice (Section 515 (10) of the Criminal Code). In general, most youth in custody under a “remand warrant” are awaiting a court hearing or sentencing and, as such, are held in this status for relatively short periods of time.

Box 1:

This *Juristat* examines youth corrections data which are drawn from three sources. 1) The Corrections Key Indicator Report (KIR) collects average daily counts of youths in custody (remand, secure custody and open custody) and month-end probation counts. These data also form the basis for calculating incarceration and probation rates based on the number of youth in the population. 2) The Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey describes the number of admissions of youth to custody and probation according to the nature of the offence, the length of disposition ordered by the court and releases from correctional services by actual time served, as well as the characteristics of the youth. 3) The Alternative Measures (AM) survey collects data on the number of youth reaching an agreement to participate in an Alternative Measures Program according to the type of alternative measures agreement, the program outcome as well as the characteristics of the youth. Refer to Methodology section for more detail.

The number of youths in corrections has decreased slightly over the past 10 years

In 2002/03, there was a daily average of about 29,400⁴ youths either in custody or on supervised probation among reporting jurisdictions. This represents a decrease of 4% from 2001/02 among jurisdictions reporting in both years. The vast majority of youth are in supervised probation. In 2002/03, there were, on average, 26,400 (90%)

1. Excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds due to the unavailability of data.

2. Excerpts from Sanders, 2000.

3. Excerpts from Sanders, 2000.

4. Remand and sentenced custody counts exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds and probation counts exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Box 2: Jurisdictional Comparisons

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat* and the differences between jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results, in part, reflect the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. Factors that contribute to differences include the varying use of informal and formal diversion measures (i.e. alternative measures) across jurisdictions. Such diversion methods have an impact on both the court case-flow as well as intakes to correctional facilities and programs.

Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds are excluded from the analysis of average daily counts for remand, secure and open custody as well as month-end probation counts. In addition, due to systematic differences in the characteristics of 16- to 17-year-olds compared to younger youths, admission and release characteristics of Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been omitted from national totals. These data have, however been footnoted in the provincial/territorial rate tables in order to show the trend of this subgroup in Ontario. Data for Ontario 16- and 17-year-olds, however, have been included in the reporting of admission counts and average counts. The Ontario data should not, however, be compared to rates in other jurisdictions because 16- and 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national rates. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut have also been excluded from the analysis of month-end probation counts due to the unavailability of data.

In previous years, the analysis of data on probation and custody counts and the production of national youth rates have excluded Quebec because of the unavailability of data from 1996/97 to 2001/02. Average daily counts data are now available for Quebec back to 1996/97. In this report, the time series of national custody and probation rates have been revised to include the Quebec data and are now considerably lower than in previous years because of the relatively low incarceration and probation rates in Quebec compared to the rest of Canada.

As the data for this report are drawn from the local administrative information systems, they also reflect local case management practices as well as differences in the way the information is maintained in jurisdictional case management systems. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and to use caution in making direct comparisons between jurisdictions with prior years.

youths on probation, 2,130 (7%) in sentenced custody and 850 (3%) in remand. In comparison to the previous year, decreases occurred in remand (6%), sentenced custody (7%) and probation (4%) (Table 1).

The number of youths in the correctional system on an average day has decreased (6%) since 1993/94, when there were 31,200⁵ youths. The total rate of youths in correctional services including remand, sentenced custody and probation was 121 per 10,000 youth population, a decrease of 5% from 2001/02 and 12% from 1993/94. However, the average disposition program profile of corrections has changed. The number of youths in sentenced custody in 2002/03 (2,130) was 35% lower than in 1993/94 (3,260). In comparison, the number of youths on supervised probation (26,400) in 2002/03 decreased 3% over this period (Table 1); and conversely, the number of youths in remand increased 21% during this ten year period.

The increased use of remand has been identified as an important operational concern within both youth and adult correctional services in Canada. In a more detailed examination of the

issue of remand, Johnson (2003) discusses several factors that may contribute to increased remand caseloads. These include increased levels of violent crime compared to non-violent crime, longer court processing times, the use of 'time-served' sentences and increases in the duration of remand.

Trends in youth correctional counts, 1993/94 to 2002/03

The overall youth incarceration rate⁶ in 2002/03 was 12.5 per 10,000 youth population, a slight decline (-5%) compared to 2001/02 (13.2) and 33% lower than in 1993/94 (18.7) (Table 3). This decline has taken place in most jurisdictions and is due to decreases in the number of youth sentenced both to open and secure custody. Over this ten year period, the largest declines in incarceration rates occurred in Prince Edward Island (-69%), Alberta (-57%), British Columbia (-49%) and New Brunswick (-44%).

Sentenced custody rates are declining

The sentenced custody rate was just over 10 per 10,000 youth in 2002/03, a 4% decline from 2001/02 and down 38% from 1993/94 when the rate was 15 per 10,000 youth population.

Secure custody and open custody each represent approximately one half of the sentenced custody count. These proportions have remained relatively unchanged over the past 10 years.

In 2002/03, the rate of youth in secure custody (5 per 10,000 youth) was slightly lower than in 2001/02 and 36% lower than in 1993/94 (Table 4). Among the provinces in 2002/03, Saskatchewan reported the highest secure custody rate (16) while British Columbia reported the lowest rate (2).

Open custody rates and trends are similar to those of secure custody. In 2002/03, the open custody rate (5 per 10,000 youth) was down slightly from 2001/02 and down 39% compared with the 1993/94 rate (Table 4). Among the provinces in 2002/03, Newfoundland and Labrador reported the highest rate (12) while Quebec reported the lowest rate (2).

Remand rate declined in 2002/03

In 2002/03, the remand⁷ rate decreased 11% from the previous year (Table 4). As a result of the larger decline in the sentenced custody population, over the past decade, 28% of youths in custody in 2002/03 were on remand status compared to 18% in 1993/94. The rate of remand varied considerably among the provinces in 2002/03. Among the provinces, Manitoba reported the highest remand rates (10 per 10,000 youth population), while Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia reported the lowest (2). Approximately half of reporting jurisdictions experienced decreases in the rate of remand since 1993/94, while increases have occurred in Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

5. Remand and sentenced custody counts exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds and probation counts exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

6. The youth incarceration rate is based on the total average daily population in secure or open custody or on remand against the total population aged 12- to 17-years.

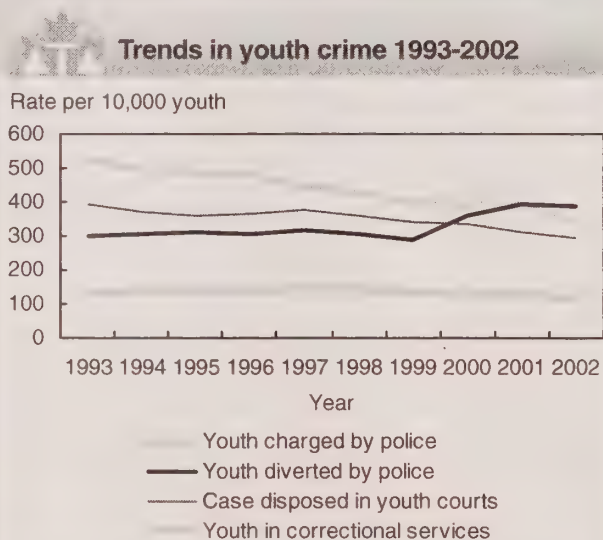
7. Excludes Ontario due to the unavailability of data.

Supervised probation decreased slightly in 2002/03

The average month-end count of young offenders on supervised probation in 2002/03 was approximately 26,400⁸. In comparison to the previous year, supervised probation counts decreased or remained stable in all reporting jurisdictions with the exception of New Brunswick, which increased 6%. Over the last ten years, there has been an overall trend of decreasing counts for the majority of jurisdictions with the exception of Quebec, where supervised probation has jumped by 60% and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where supervised probation has increased by 28% and 4%, respectively (Table 5).

Box 3 Trends in Youth Crime

Police reported crime statistics show that between 1993 and 2002 the rate of youths charged by police dropped 36%. In 2002, youths were charged at a rate of 337 per 10,000 youth in Canada (Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2002)¹. While the rate of youth charged with property crimes decreased consistently during this period, the rate of youth charged with violent crimes increased 7%. Youth can be formally charged or dealt with by other means (youth cleared otherwise). For example, the police may have used discretion, the complainant did not want to lay a charge or the youth was involved in other incidents. In contrast to the declining rate of youths charged, the rate of youth cleared otherwise reported by police increased by approximately one-fourth from 1999 to 2001 after remaining stable throughout the 1990's. In 2002, the rate of youth cleared otherwise was 387 per 10,000 youth, a decline of 2% from the previous year (Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2002). Consistent with the overall trend in youth charged rates, the rate of cases processed in youth court declined by 16% from 1993/94 to 2002/03 (Youth Court Survey, 2003)¹, and the rate of youth in correctional services declined 11% (Corrections Key Indicator Report, 2002/03).



1. Due to the unavailability of data from the Corrections Key Indicator Report, New Brunswick, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Youth Court Survey in order to ensure comparability. The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey is based on a calendar year while the Youth Court Survey and the Key Indicator Report are based on a fiscal year. The youth in correctional services rate is the average counts of remand, sentenced custody (secure and open custody) and supervised probation (per 10,000 youth population).

Sources: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Corrections Key Indicator Report and the Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Population Estimates: Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

The probation rate in 2002/03 was 109 youth per 10,000 youth population, a decline of 5% from 2001/02 (Table 6). Probation rates have fluctuated over the last ten years, ranging from a peak of 132 per 10,000 youth population in 1997/98 to its current low of 109 in 2002/03. The highest rates in supervised probation among the provinces and territories in 2002/03 were in Manitoba (204), Saskatchewan (193) and Newfoundland and Labrador (185), while British Columbia (75), Quebec (94) and Alberta (95) reported the lowest rates (Table 6). Seven out of ten provinces and territories⁹ reported declines in probation rates since 1993/94 with the largest declines reported by Prince Edward Island (70%), Yukon (65%), British Columbia (47%) and Nova Scotia (36%).

Admissions to youth correctional services

The Youth Custody and Community Services Survey counts a correctional admission each time a young offender commences a particular custody status or a term of probation, including changes from one status to another (e.g., the same youth held during trial in remand custody who then begins a sentence of secure custody would have two admissions). Each admission is tabulated according to the most serious offence (MSO). As some youth are being held for multiple offences, less serious offences tend to be under-represented in these statistics. For more information on the most serious offence refer to the Glossary at the end of this report.

Probation admissions represent the majority of admissions to youth correctional services in Canada

In 2002/03, there were approximately 26,200¹⁰ probation admissions, representing more than half (52%)¹¹ of admissions to youth correctional services (Table 7). Remand totaled 14,600¹² admissions, secure custody 4,840 and open custody 4,530 (Tables 7 & 8).

Probation admissions decreased in 2002/03

In 2002/03, probation admissions were down 7% from 2001/02. Nevertheless, there is considerable variability among reporting jurisdictions over this period. Prince Edward Island (+3%) and Saskatchewan (+5%) experienced increases, while the remaining eight reporting jurisdictions¹³ reported decreases ranging from 4% to 28% (Table 7).

The majority of youth custodial admissions are to remand

In 2002/03, remand admissions represented approximately six in ten admissions to custody (Table 8). Remand accounted for three-quarters (77%) of custodial admissions in Manitoba, and nearly two-thirds of admissions to custody in Alberta, Yukon

8. Excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

9. Excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

10. Excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

11. Excludes Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

12. Excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

13. Ontario has been excluded from the discussion due to the unavailability of 12- to 15-year-olds data.

and British Columbia (62 to 64% in each). In contrast, 18% of custodial admissions in the Northwest Territories and 34% in New Brunswick were to remand.

There were approximately 9,370 admissions to secure and open custody in 2002/03 (Table 8). In comparison with the previous year, admissions to secure custody decreased 5% and open custody admissions declined 6%. Although there was an overall decrease in custodial admissions, Newfoundland & Labrador, Manitoba, and Yukon reported increases.

Most serious offences

Property offences account for the majority of admissions to correctional services

In 2002/03, property offences accounted for the highest proportion (34%) of custody admissions (remand, secure and open custody) among the nine jurisdictions that reported these data¹⁴. Violent offences accounted for 30% of custodial admissions, while 'Other Criminal Code' offences (e.g. failure to appear and disorderly conduct) accounted for 13% and other statute offences which also include YOA offences (failure to comply) and drug-related offences represented 23% of custody admissions.

Property offences represented the highest proportion of custodial admissions for most jurisdictions with the exceptions of Nova Scotia, where other criminal code offences such as failure to appear in court were more common than all other statute offences; Manitoba, where violent offences were more prevalent than property offences; and, British Columbia where other statute offences such as drug-related offences and YOA offences were more common than either violent and property offences¹⁵.

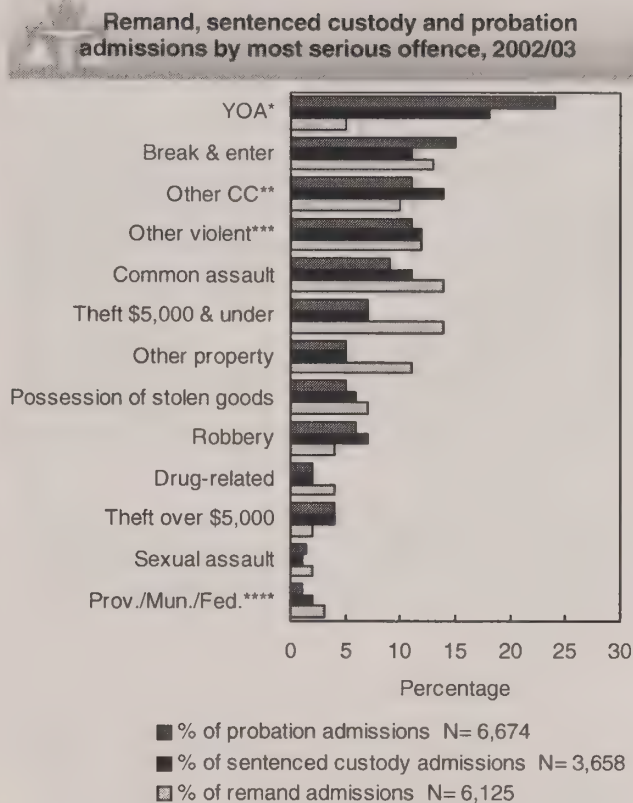
Overall, 33% and 31% of remand admissions were related to property offences and violent offences, respectively, followed by 'Other Criminal Code' offences (14%) and other statute offences (22%) (Table 9).

The largest proportions of remand admissions for violent offences were reported in Manitoba (58%), the Northwest Territories (41%) and Nunavut (30%). In British Columbia, 40% of youths were remanded for other statute offences (i.e. drug-related offences, YOA offences and municipal/provincial/federal offences), while in Nova Scotia, 'Other Criminal Code' offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct accounted for 43% of their remand admissions (Table 9).

Offence data for probation are available for six jurisdictions¹⁶. Overall, 46% of probation admissions were for property offences. Violent offences accounted for 32% of probation admissions, while other types of 'Criminal Code' offences accounted for 10%; and YOA offences (failure to comply) accounted for 5%; drug-related offences, 4%; and other statute offences accounted for 3% (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Many jurisdictions have policies that limit the use of alternative measures to cases involving less serious crimes. Most alternative measure cases¹⁷ are for non-violent crimes: 57%

Figure 1



Note: Due to the unavailability of data remand and sentenced custody excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan. Probation data exclude New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Percent totals may not add due to rounding. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

* YOA (Young Offenders Act) includes offences such as failure to comply with a disposition and contempt against youth court.

** Other CC includes offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

*** Other violent includes offences such as murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, aggravated assault and other assaults.

**** Prov./Mun./Fed. includes offences such as provincial/territorial traffic violations, municipal by-law violations and other federal statutes offences of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

14. Reporting jurisdictions include Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

15. Please note that admissions are calculated according to the most serious offence and, as such, less serious offences are under-represented.

16. Probation admissions data by most serious offences include Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon.

17. Alternative measures data by most serious offences include Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

of alternative measure agreements in 2002/03 were for property offences and 19% were for 'Other Criminal Code' offences. Alternative measures agreements accounted for 12% of violent offences and 11% of other statute offences (Table 9).

Box 4

Alternative measures in Canada

Alternative Measures refer to formalized programs through which youth who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with via non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Alternative measures programs are authorized by the Attorney General in a province or territory and may be offered at either the pre-charge or post-charge stage. Pursuant to the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) these programs are designed to balance society's right to protection against the needs of youth in contact with the law.

The involvement of a youth in an alternative measures program is contingent upon the youth acknowledging responsibility for the offence and agreeing to enter into the program. There were approximately 24,500 cases that resulted in alternative measures agreements among the ten reporting jurisdictions in 2002/03, an increase of 8% from 2001/02¹⁸ (Table 10).

The participation rate (the number of cases reaching agreement per 10,000 youth population) of alternative measures increased 8% from 2001/02 but has declined 9% since 1998/99. The rate among the jurisdictions ranged from 100 per 10,000 youth in Newfoundland and Labrador to 401 per 10,000 youth in the Northwest Territories in 2002/03¹⁹ (Table 11).

Alternative measures programs can include community service, personal service or restitution to a victim, apologies and educational or training programs. In 2002/03, community service was the most frequent type of alternative measure administered by reporting jurisdictions (30%), followed by an apology to victim (17%) and social skills improvement (15%)²⁰.

Youth are considered successful in alternative measures once all terms and conditions of the agreement have been satisfied. In 2002/03, 86% of youth in reporting jurisdictions successfully completed all measures stated within their agreements²¹. If a youth fails to complete the alternative measures program successfully, the case is returned to the Crown who may close the case (take no further action), consider another term in alternative measures or choose to proceed with prosecution of the case.

Box 5

Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to differentiate between sentence lengths on admission and those on release. While a youth court judge stipulates the period of custody, events such as appeals, reviews, releases, and the administration of additional sentences may influence the amount of time actually served. In addition, correctional service officials may move the young offender from secure custody to open custody, in compliance with jurisdictional procedures. As a result, time served on release may differ from time ordered at sentencing.

Nearly six in ten releases from secure custody occurred within one month of admission

In 2002/03, secure custody releases occurred within one month of admission 57% of the time²³; whereas, time served in open custody is somewhat longer, with 40% serving a period of less than one month²⁴ (Table 13).

Approximately one-third of young offender probation orders exceed one year

In 2002/03, nearly half (48%) of youth probationers served terms of 6 months to one year. Probation admissions for terms between one to two years represented 26% of admissions and terms longer than two years represented 3%²⁵ (Table 14). Length of time served on probation has been fairly consistent from year to year.

Characteristics of Young Offenders in Correctional Services

As with adults, the majority of youths involved in crime are male. Three-quarters (75%) of youth charged with a Criminal Code offence in 2002 were male and 25% were female (UCR, 2002). Similarly, approximately eight in ten youth court cases and admissions to correctional services involved males in 2002/03. The proportion of males varies only slightly by correctional program. In 2002/03, 80% of secure custody and 84% of open custody admissions were males, compared to 76% of remand or probation admissions. Males account for a lower proportion of participants in alternative measures compared to other correctional programs (66%).

18. Excludes Nova Scotia, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

19. Excludes Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

20. Reporting jurisdictions include Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

21. Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

22. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

23. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

24. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

25. Although a particular probation order may not exceed 2 years according to the YOA, some offenders may be bound by more than one probation order where the aggregate total exceeds 2 years.

Releases

Over one-half of remand releases occurred within one week of admission

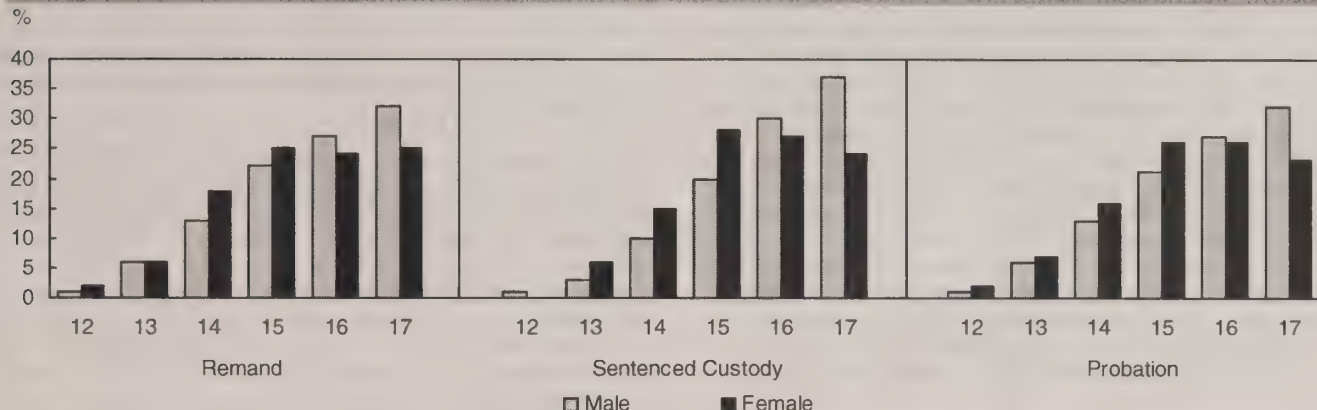
A youth may be released from remand for a number of reasons that include: a transfer into another form of supervision (i.e. open custody, secure custody or probation), a court finding of not guilty, or alternatively, a court finding of guilty where the court has considered the time spent in remand custody as sufficient punishment for the crime (time served).

In comparison to sentenced custody, time spent in remand is generally short. In 2002/03²², just over half (54%) of youth remand releases occurred within one week of admission, 30% spent between one week and one month in remand custody, and 15% were held between one to six months (Table 12).

Figure 2



Male youth in custody and probation are generally older than female youth, 2002/03



Note: Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan; sentenced custody excludes New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario; probation excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Male youths admitted to custody, probation and alternative measures tend to be older than females

Males in custody tend to be older than females (Figure 2). In 2002/03, 58% of male youths remanded were aged 16 years or older compared to 49% of females²⁶. Similarly, 67% of male sentenced custody offenders were aged 16 or older, compared with 51% of female sentenced custody offenders²⁷. With respect to probation²⁸, 59% of males were 16 years and older whereas 49% of females were in that age category (Figure 2). Offenders aged 16 and older accounted for 70% of male alternative measures²⁹ admissions compared to 30% of female admissions.

Aboriginal youth over-represented in youth correctional services

Aboriginal youth are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. While Aboriginal youth accounted for 44% of admissions to remand³⁰, 46% of sentenced custody³¹ admissions and 32% of probation³² admissions, and 21% of alternative measure cases reaching agreement³³ in 2002/03, they account for approximately 8% of the youth population (according to the 2001 Census of Population)³⁴. This over-representation is particularly evident in Western Canada and the Territories where Aboriginal populations are larger (Figure 3).

26. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

27. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario due to the unavailability of data.

28. Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

29. Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

30. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data.

31. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario due to the unavailability of data.

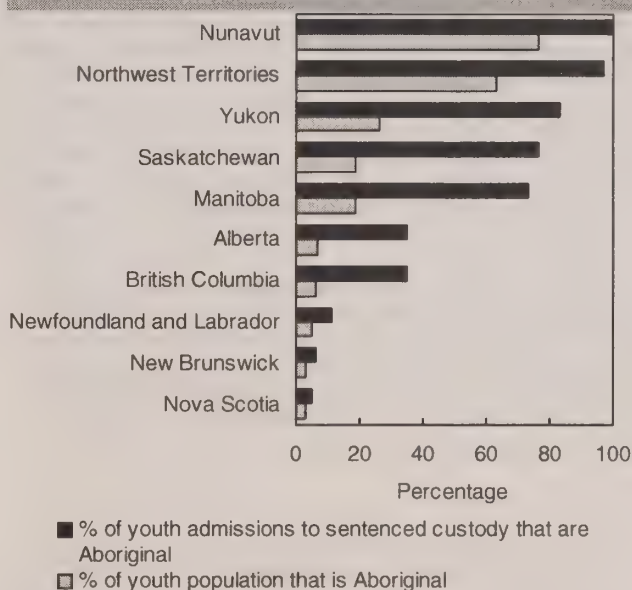
32. Excludes Quebec, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to the unavailability of data.

33. Includes Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

34. Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Aboriginal Population.

Figure 3

Aboriginal¹ youth are over-represented in open and secure custody, 2002/03



Note: Due to the unavailability of data, Quebec and Ontario have been excluded. Prince Edward Island data has been suppressed from the analysis on Aboriginal admissions due to low counts. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

1. Aboriginal includes North American, Metis and Inuit registered under the Indian Act and those that are non-registered.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Aboriginal population.

Methodology

This *Juristat* contains data collected from three different sources, the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, Alternative Measures (AM) survey, and the Key Indicator Report. The YCCS survey maintains both micro and aggregate level data, which are collected by provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the delivery of youth corrections and young offender programs. These data have been collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31) since the 1997/98 reference year. In 2002/03, Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta provided case-specific information to the YCCS (i.e., micro-level data) that were then used to generate the aggregate-level admission counts reported in this *Juristat*. These respondents represent roughly 13% of the national caseload. The remainder of reporting jurisdictions provided aggregate counts³⁵. Because of the limited coverage provided by the case-specific component of the YCCS survey, analysis in this report has been limited to aggregated data.

Jurisdictions providing aggregate data complete a set of standard data tables, which are used to compile national data on admissions and releases. Micro-data, on the other hand, are extracted directly from provincial operational systems, through the use of system interface programs. The interface programs are designed to extract specific data elements and values identified in the survey's National Data Requirements developed by provincial/territorial and federal members of the National Justice Statistics Initiative. Micro-data reported by the jurisdictions are centrally processed, edited, and loaded onto the YCCS database. These data are used to generate admission counts which are tabulated in the aggregate standard data tables. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be reproduced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics that have been generated locally.

It is important to note that for both aggregate and micro-level respondents, once the data are processed and compiled into standard data tables, these data are analyzed and returned to the jurisdictions for final verification. The participation of jurisdictions in the survey process is vital to ensuring data quality and understanding the differences in provincial and territorial youth justice/correctional systems.

Unit of analysis

Admissions data measure the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are tabulated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied judicial interim release and held in remand until he or she is sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts (e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively):

Admissions: 1 admission to remand
1 admission to secure custody
1 admission to open custody
1 admission to probation

Youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as a new admission. As well, new admission counts exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as a new admission.

The Alternative Measures (AM) survey is conducted in conjunction with the YCCS survey. The AM survey collects aggregate data on the administration of alternative measures in Canada. The unit of analysis that is used for the Alternative Measures survey is the case. A case refers to one person's activity in the Alternative Measures program for one incident. An incident is a specific event wherein a person is alleged to have committed one or more related offences. "Related" refers to a sequence of criminal actions that occur at the same location or where one action led to the occurrence of another. The focus of this survey is on cases for which an agreement for alternative measures has been reached (i.e., when a person agrees to participate in the alternative measures process³⁶) according to the conditions and obligations contained therein. The processes and compilation of AM data are identical to those of the YCCS aggregate survey.

Data from the Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of youth in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. The data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format. Average daily counts include all youth on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a youth correctional facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young offenders on probation include young offenders on supervised probation at the end of the month.

Glossary of Terms

Aboriginal status: Indicates whether the youth is Aboriginal. Aboriginal status includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the *Indian Act* and those that are non-registered. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

Actual-in counts: Includes all youths on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a custody facility and are present at the time the count is taken.

35. Includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

36. Alternative measures programs include supervision (i.e. personal service), formal caution letter, community service, personal services to victim, counseling, apologies, restitution and/or compensation to victims, educational programs, charitable donations, essay or presentation, referrals to specialized services, and social skills improvement course.

Admission: Refers to the youth's commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new admission is counted each time an offender changes status.

Alternative measures:

The following are official alternative measures:

- Supervision (i.e., other than community service, personal services).
- Community Service
- Personal Services to Victim (e.g., mediation programs)
- Compensation
- Counselling
- Educational Program (e.g., voluntary police class)
- Apology (verbal or written)
- Charitable Donations
- Other Alternative Measures

Age: Refers to the age of the offender at the time of admission into a youth facility or community program. For alternative measure programs age is derived as the difference between the last day of the month for which the count is taken and the date of birth. A young person can start a measure when a youth remains active in the measure at age 18 or older.

Case reaching agreement(s): Refers to a case for which the young person has agreed to participate in Alternative Measures. A case may have more than one agreement reached at the same time.

Case outcome: Refers to the outcome of each case that reached agreement and was closed in Alternative Measures. One outcome is counted for each case reaching agreement. Outcome is counted as either completed successfully, partially successful, not successful or not stated.

Custody: A status that requires the young offender to spend time in a designated correctional facility, either in secure custody, open custody or remand as ordered by the youth court.

Disposition: A youth court orders a disposition upon finding a young person guilty of an offence. The types of dispositions include the following:

- a) Custodial dispositions: include secure custody and open custody; and
- b) Community service dispositions: include probation, community service order, personal service order, compensation, restitution, pay purchaser, fine, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, and other dispositions deemed appropriate.

Month-end probation count: Data are an indication of the number of young offenders on supervised probation at the end of the month.

Most Serious Offence (Youth Custody and Community Services Survey): The YCCS survey categorizes "most serious offence" (MSO). Offence types are categorized from most to least serious, as follows: violent, drug related, property, other *Criminal Code*, YOA, and provincial/municipal or other federal offences. The MSO categories include the following:

1. **Violent offences:** include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion. Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person. Robbery is considered a violent offence because unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.
2. **Drug-related offences:** include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* such as importing/exporting narcotics, trafficking in narcotics, possession of narcotics, cultivation, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drugs.
3. **Property offences:** include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief. Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person.
4. **Other Criminal Code offences:** include offences such as prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escape custody, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, soliciting, and offences against the administration of justice.
5. **YOA offences:** include offences such as failure to comply with a court ordered disposition, and contempt against youth court.
6. **Provincial/Territorial, Municipal and Other Federal offences:** include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Most Serious Offence (The Alternative Measures Survey):

An MSO is counted for each case reaching agreement. In a case where there is only one offence, that offence is the most serious. In a case where there is more than one offence, the MSO is determined by the most serious offence found within the following offence severity scale, ordered from most to least serious offence groups. Alternative measures offence severity scale:

- 1) **Against Person:** Major: Assault (Level 1 (physical and sexual); robbery; criminal negligence.
- 2) **Against Person:** Minor: possession of weapons; carrying concealed weapons.
- 3) **Narcotics:** Minor: possession.
- 4) **Against Property:** Major: Theft over \$5,000: take motor vehicle without consent; break and enter; arson.
- 5) **Against Property:** Minor: criminal breach of trust: theft of credit card; possession of stolen property; fraud; forgery; mischief.
- 6) **Other Criminal Code:** Trespassing; vagrancy; dangerous operation of motor vehicle; corrupting morals; impaired driving possession of break and enter tools, indecent telephone calls.
- 7) **Young Offenders Act:** Failure to comply.

- 8) **Provincial/Territorial, Municipal and Other Federal offences:** include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Open custody: The *Young Offenders Act* defines open custody as "custody in (a) a community residential centre, group home, childcare institution, or forest or wilderness camp or (b) any like place or facility". A facility is considered "open" when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. The extent to which facilities are "open" varies across jurisdictions.

Participation in alternative measures: Refers to the average number of cases that were active at any point during the month. The total number of cases in AM may be greater than the total number of cases reaching agreement because the young person may be active in more than one measure at the same time.

Probation/supervised probation: A common type of community-based disposition, where the offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. This includes both supervised and unsupervised probation.

Release: Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted each time an offender changes status.

Remand: To hold a young person temporarily in custody, pursuant to a Remand Warrant, while awaiting trial or sentencing, or prior to commencement of a custodial disposition.

Secure Custody: Under the *Young Offenders Act* a facility is considered secure when youths are detained by security devices, including those which operate with full perimeter security features and/or where youths are under constant observation. The extent to which facilities are "secure" varies across jurisdictions.

Sentenced custody/counts: Refers to both secure and open custody.

Sentence length: This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve under the *Young Offenders Act*. The specific amount of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple *custodial sentences* (i.e., secure and open custody), if dispositions are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the dispositions are consecutive then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if dispositions are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

Time served: Refers to the aggregate time served or total amount of days a young person spent in custody upon completion of an uninterrupted period of time during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

Youth cleared otherwise: An incident is cleared "otherwise" when the police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. This could occur for a number of reasons: the police may have used discretion and decided not to lay a charge, the complainant did not want police to lay a charge or the accused was involved in other incidents.

Young offender/youth: A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

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Table 1

Program distribution of average daily counts of youth in corrections, 1993/94, 2001/02 and 2002/03

	1993/94 ¹		2001/02 ²		2002/03 ³		% change from 1993/94 to 2002/03	% change from 2001/02 to 2002/03
	Average daily count	% of total correctional count	Average daily count	% of total correctional count	Average daily count	% of total correctional count		
Total Correctional	31,156	100	30,035	100	29,418	100	-6	-2
Remand	703	2	907	3	849	3	21	-6
Sentenced Custody	3,256	10	2,294	8	2,131	7	-35	-7
Secure Custody	1,625	5	1,156	4	1,067	4	-34	-8
Open Custody	1,631	5	1,138	4	1,064	4	-35	-7
Total Custody	3,959	13	3,201	11	2,980	10	-25	-7
Probation	27,197	87	26,834	89	26,438	90	-3	-1

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

1. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded. Probation data excludes the Northwest Territories.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded. Probation data excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Average daily count of young offenders on remand and sentenced custody by jurisdiction, 1993/94, 2001/02 and 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Remand					Secure custody					Open custody				
	Average daily count			% change in average daily counts		Average daily count			% change in average daily counts		Average daily count			% change in average daily counts	
	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94 to 2002/03	2001/02 to 2002/03	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94 to 2002/03	2001/02 to 2002/03	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94 to 2002/03	2001/02 to 2002/03
Total¹	515	538	481	-7	-11	1,095	746	723	-34	-3	1,191	780	735	-38	-6
Newfoundland & Labrador	8	12	13	63	8	66	38	42	-36	11	71	49	51	-28	4
Prince Edward Island	3	2	2	-33	0	23	8	7	-70	-13	22	6	6	-73	0
Nova Scotia	15	25	22	47	-12	47	20	21	-55	5	97	74	85	-12	15
New Brunswick	14	11	10	-29	-9	83	55	45	-46	-18	113	63	52	-54	-17
Quebec	119	98	84	-29	-14	245	191	192	-22	1	227	127	121	-47	-5
Manitoba	77	109	104	35	-5	97	65	61	-37	-6	101	88	91	-10	3
Saskatchewan	45	95	73	62	-23	140	138	145	4	5	132	102	101	-23	-1
Alberta	151	110	96	-36	-13	251	130	123	-51	-5	224	124	106	-53	-15
British Columbia	76	67	67	-12	0	115	78	68	-41	-13	169	111	85	-50	-23
Yukon	2	1	1	-50	0	4	2	1	-75	-50	2	4	4	100	0
Northwest Territories ²	5	6	4	...	-33	24	19	13	...	-32	33	30	28	...	-7
Nunavut	...	2	5	...	150	...	2	5	...	150	...	2	5	...	150
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	188	369	368	96	0	530	410	344	-35	-16	440	358	329	-25	-8

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded. Data for Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included in order to show the trend of this sub-group in Ontario. The Ontario data should not be compared to other jurisdictions because 16- to 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national counts.

... not applicable

1. National figures excludes Ontario for all reference years.

2. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Youth incarceration rates per 10,000 youth population by jurisdiction, 1993/94 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Incarceration rate ¹									
	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total²	18.7	19.6	18.8	18.0	17.2	16.6	15.4	14.3	13.4	12.5
Newfoundland & Labrador	24.8	26.9	26.0	28.1	24.0	22.9	21.4	20.6	22.1	24.2
Prince Edward Island	39.6	30.1	29.1	33.0	23.1	18.8	17.9	14.8	13.9	12.2
Nova Scotia	20.9	22.5	22.9	23.0	19.5	19.5	18.0	18.4	15.9	17.0
New Brunswick	32.3	31.3	31.4	31.1	25.6	23.2	23.5	24.1	21.5	18.1
Quebec	10.0	11.2	10.5	8.8	9.6	9.1	8.7	8.1	7.7	7.2
Manitoba	29.1	31.6	30.1	32.8	32.5	31.0	30.1	27.9	26.4	25.5
Saskatchewan	33.9	36.9	36.9	37.3	39.6	41.0	36.2	35.6	35.3	34.1
Alberta	27.2	27.0	24.4	22.3	18.9	17.8	16.4	14.4	13.5	11.8
British Columbia	13.1	14.2	13.5	13.0	12.2	11.2	10.2	9.1	7.9	6.7
Yukon	32.5	48.5	56.4	56.2	63.6	50.4	46.8	30.5	24.3	21.1
Northwest Territories ³	95.5	185.7	142.9	157.3	174.4	110.7	157.0	134.1	136.0	109.4
Nunavut ⁴	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	35.4	16.8	37.9
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	41.8	41.7	40.3	40.3	40.3	39.6	36.7	37.0	35.1	31.7

Note: Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds has been excluded for all years. Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included in the provincial/territorial rate tables in order to show the trend of this sub-group in Ontario. The Ontario data should not be compared to rates in other jurisdictions because 16- to 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national rates.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. The incarceration rate is the average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youth population.

2. National figures excludes Ontario for all reference years.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Nunavut data for 1999/00 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories, therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; and Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Youth remand, secure and open custody rates per 10,000 youth population by jurisdiction, 1993/94 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹			Secure custody ¹			Open custody ¹		
	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03
Total²	3.4	3.5	3.1	7.3	4.9	4.7	7.9	5.1	4.8
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.4	2.7	3.0	11.3	8.5	9.7	12.2	10.9	11.7
Prince Edward Island	2.5	1.6	1.6	19.4	6.6	5.7	18.6	4.9	4.9
Nova Scotia	2.0	3.3	2.9	6.2	2.7	2.8	12.8	9.9	11.3
New Brunswick	2.1	1.8	1.7	12.7	9.2	7.6	17.3	10.5	8.8
Quebec	2.0	1.8	1.5	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.9	2.3	2.2
Manitoba	8.2	11.0	10.4	10.3	6.5	6.1	10.7	8.8	9.1
Saskatchewan	4.8	10.0	7.8	14.9	14.6	15.5	14.1	10.8	10.8
Alberta	6.6	4.1	3.5	10.9	4.8	4.5	9.8	4.6	3.9
British Columbia	2.8	2.1	2.1	4.2	2.4	2.1	6.2	3.4	2.6
Yukon	8.1	3.5	3.5	16.3	6.9	3.5	8.1	13.9	14.1
Northwest Territories ³	7.7	14.8	9.7	37.0	47.0	31.6	50.8	74.2	68.0
Nunavut	...	5.6	13.5	...	5.6	13.5	...	5.6	13.5
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	6.8	11.4	11.2	19.1	12.7	10.5	15.9	11.1	10.0

Note: Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded for all years. Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included in the provincial/territorial rate tables in order to show the trend of this sub-group in Ontario. The Ontario data should not be compared to rates in other jurisdictions because 16- to 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national rates.

... not applicable

1. The rates are average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youth population.

2. National rates excludes Ontario for all reference years.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada and Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Average month-end counts of young offenders on probation by jurisdiction, 1993/94, 2001/02 and 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Probation			% change of average month-end counts	
	Average month-end count				
	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	1993/94 to 2002/03	2001/02 to 2002/03
Total	27,197	26,834	26,438	-1¹	-1²
Newfoundland & Labrador	1,395	818	802	-43	-2
Prince Edward Island	490	157	151	-69	-4
Nova Scotia	1,376	961	875	-36	-9
New Brunswick	1,124	789	836	-26	6
Quebec	3,214	5,444	5,136	60	-6
Manitoba	1,594	2,042	2,045	28	0
Saskatchewan	1,735	1,804	1,805	4	0
Alberta	2,923	2,756	2,619	-10	-5
British Columbia ³	3,923	2,670 ^r	2,444	-38	-8
Yukon	81	46	33	-59	-28
Northwest Territories	429	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	...	16	..	...	...
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	8,913	9,331	9,692	9	4

Note: Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded. Data for Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included in order to show the trend of this subgroup in Ontario. The Ontario data should not be compared to other jurisdictions because 16- to 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national figures. The Northwest Territories for 2001/02 and 2002/03 and Nunavut for 2002/03 have also been excluded due to the unavailability of data.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Excludes the Northwest Territories for 1993/94 due to comparability issues.

2. Excludes Nunavut for 2001/02 due to comparability issues.

3. Due to system changes in 1999/00, British Columbia does not have historically comparable data before April 2000. Data for 2001/02 have been revised.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Youth probation rates per 10,000 youth population by jurisdiction, 1993/94 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Probation rate ¹									
	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total²	121.8	124.7	130.3	128.1	132.0	130.4	122.8	112.2	114.2	109.1
Newfoundland & Labrador	238.9	222.3	230.9	240.3	226.1	217.5	201.1	184.4	182.7	184.5
Prince Edward Island	413.3	396.8	311.6	266.1	249.1	222.3	166.9	144.3	128.6	122.6
Nova Scotia	181.7	192.7	212.5	198.0	188.6	178.1	167.8	147.3	128.2	116.5
New Brunswick	172.1	182.7	197.6	188.5	187.0	167.0	155.1	..	131.7	141.3
Quebec	54.5	56.2	61.6	59.7	85.0	87.3	89.6	88.8	100.4	93.8
Manitoba	169.2	186.6	207.6	212.1	197.5	206.8	196.6	202.1	205.3	203.7
Saskatchewan	184.9	169.9	174.2	182.8	194.5	208.6	203.9	188.8	190.3	192.7
Alberta	127.4	128.8	134.8	134.4	127.2	122.6	110.3	106.7	101.9	95.4
British Columbia ³	143.0	153.9	152.2	144.0	134.9	128.0	110.7	84.9	81.9	75.2
Yukon	329.1	323.4	436.3	473.9	445.1	379.6	321.2	227.0	159.6	116.0
Northwest Territories ⁴	660.5	1,282.4	785.9	784.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut ⁵	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	44.8	..
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	321.8	320.9	235.0	307.6	308.5	306.6	288.1	282.5	288.6	294.8

Note: Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds has been excluded for all years. Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included in the provincial/territorial rate tables in order to show the trend of this sub-group in Ontario. The Ontario data should not be compared to rates in other jurisdictions because 16- to 17-year-olds have considerably higher involvement rates in correctional services than do 12- to 15-year-olds. For this reason, Ontario has been excluded from the reporting of national rates.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. The probation rate is the averaged month-end counts of probation per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, probation excludes Ontario for all reference years; the Northwest Territories from 1997/98 to 2002/03; New Brunswick for 2000/01, and Nunavut for 1999/00, 2000/01 and 2002/03.

3. Due to system changes in 1999/00, British Columbia does not have historically comparable data before April 2000. The 1999/00 data cannot be compared to 2000/01 data.

4. Data from 1993/94 to 1996/97 includes Nunavut data. Due to the unavailability of data the Northwest Territories have been excluded from 1997/98 to 2002/03.

5. Nunavut data for 1999/00, 2000/01 and 2002/03 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut in 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Youth probation admissions, 2001/02 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Probation ¹			% of probation admissions in relation to youth correctional services, 2002/03 ²
	2001/02	2002/03	% change	
Total	28,229	26,222	-7	52
Newfoundland and Labrador	590	490	-17	44
Prince Edward Island	134	138	3	53
Nova Scotia	1,151	1,101	-4	68
New Brunswick	797	686	-14	56
Quebec	8,556	8,092	-5	71
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds ³	7,877	7,963	1	46
Manitoba	1,316	1,087	-17	30
Saskatchewan	1,640	1,715	5	...
Alberta	2,954	2,632	-11	43
British Columbia	3,171	2,281	-28	48
Yukon	43	37	-14	32
Northwest Territories	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	..	..	...	...

Note: YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Probation counts for all reference years excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Percentage of probation admissions in relation to youth correctional services excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded for all reference years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Youth custodial admissions, 2001/02 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹			Secure custody ²			Open custody ²			Total custody ³		
	2001/02	2002/03	% change	2001/02	2002/03	% change	2001/02	2002/03	% change	2001/02	2002/03	% change
Total	15,359	14,566	-5	5,090	4,840	-5	4,829	4,527	-6	25,278	23,933	-5
Newfoundland and Labrador	224	285	27	168	201	20	152	148	-3	544	634	17
Prince Edward Island	54	43	-20	37	37	0	36	41	14	127	121	-5
Nova Scotia	388	205	-47	30	33	10	287	282	-2	705	520	-26
New Brunswick	195	179	-8	235	196	-17	166	159	-4	596	534	-10
Quebec	2,212	1,676	-24	1,023	876	-14	921	696	-24	4,156	3,248	-22
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds ⁴	6,554	6,368	-3	1,725	1,601	-7	1,469	1,507	3	9,748	9,476	-3
Manitoba	1,602	1,966	23	166	223	34	267	364	36	2,035	2,553	25
Saskatchewan	..	..	...	261	309	18	325	347	7	..	..	...
Alberta	2,353	2,225	-5	897	845	-6	510	389	-24	3,760	3,459	-8
British Columbia	1,610	1,522	-5	458	448	-2	546	485	-11	2,614	2,455	-6
Yukon	43	50	16	19	11	-42	14	18	29	76	79	4
Northwest Territories	39	27	-31	37	48	30	79	73	-8	155	148	-5
Nunavut	85	20	-76	34	12	-65	57	18	-68	176	50	-72

Note: YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for any specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Remand counts for both years exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, and Saskatchewan.

2. Sentenced custody counts for both years exclude Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds.

3. Total custody counts for Saskatchewan have not been calculated because of the unavailability of remand data; however, Saskatchewan admissions data for secure and open custody have been included in the national total.

4. Due to the unavailability of data, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded for all reference years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Distribution of youth admissions to remand, sentenced custody, probation and alternative measures by most serious offence and jurisdiction, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Remand				Sentenced custody (secure and open)				Probation				Alternative Measures			
	Violent ¹	Property ²	Other 'criminal code' ³	Other offences ⁴	Violent ¹	Property ²	Other 'criminal code' ³	Other offences ⁴	Violent ¹	Property ²	Other 'criminal code' ³	Other offences ⁴	Violent ⁵	Property ⁶	Other 'criminal code' ⁷	Other offences ⁸
%																
Total ⁹	31	33	14	22	28	35	11	26	32	46	10	13	12	57	19	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	16	26	27	30	20	44	19	16	25	44	9	22	30	47	2	20
Prince Edward Island	14	47	21	19	19	54	5	22	30	52	9	9	16	65	13	6
Nova Scotia	20	19	43	18	21	27	29	23	27	37	16	19	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	58	41	0	2	61	37	0	1	..	..	..	..	7	70	15	7
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	52	31	7
Alberta	17	35	23	25	24	39	14	22	33	50	7	10	12	60	20	7
British Columbia	27	23	10	40	18	24	5	52	36	44	10	10	..	..	..	..
Yukon	24	48	16	12	10	34	31	24	16	62	0	22	16	68	5	11
Northwest Territories	41	41	7	11	36	48	9	7	..	..	..	..	12	68	16	4
Nunavut	30	60	5	5	40	43	13	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	28	35	31	6	27	41	27	5	29	48	12	11	..	..	..	..

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for any specific reference period

1. Violent offences include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion.

2. Property offences include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief.

3. Other 'Criminal Code' offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct, prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escape custody, soliciting, and offences against the administration of justice.

4. Other offences include drug-related offences, YOA, and provincial/municipal/other federal offences.

5. Violent offences for alternative measures include offences such as assault (Level 1: physical and sexual), robbery, criminal negligence, possession of weapons and carrying concealed weapons.

6. Property offences for alternative measures include offences such as theft over \$5,000, motor vehicle theft, break and enter, arson, criminal breach of trust, theft of credit card, possession of stolen property, fraud, forgery, mischief.

7. Other 'Criminal Code' for alternative measures includes mischief, disturbing the peace and other 'Criminal Code' offences.

8. Other offences for alternative measures include drug offences, other federal statutes and other.

9. Due to the unavailability of data, remand, sentenced custody, probation and alternative measures excludes Ontario.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Youth participation in alternative measures by jurisdiction, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Alternative measures					% change 1998/99 to 2002/03	% change 2001/02 to 2002/03
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03		
Newfoundland and Labrador	502	577	537	496	424	-16	-15
Prince Edward Island	187	127	106	170	133	-29	-22
Nova Scotia	1,010	..	..	..	..	...	...
New Brunswick	726	..	..	587	618	-15	5
Quebec	9,279	9,162	9,126	9,287	10,427	12	12
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	2,070	2,114	1,936	2,019	2,117	2	5
Manitoba	1,509	1,866	1,509	1,658	1,182	-22	-29
Saskatchewan ¹	1,796	1,415	2,312	2,380	2,637	47	11
Alberta ²	10,014	..	..	5,966	6,706	-33	12
British Columbia	2,003	..	..	..	..	...	...
Yukon	42	44	50	68	91	117	34
Northwest Territories ³	105	..	..	118	170	62	44
Nunavut ⁴	...	..	..	..	..	...	...
Total⁵	29,243	15,305	15,576	22,749	24,505	-7⁶	8⁶

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2000/01 data and previous years data because of changes in data collection procedures in Saskatchewan.

2. Alberta was unable to report complete data in 1999/00 and 2000/01.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, Nunavut data is not available prior to 1999.

5. The total for Canada excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for 1999/00 and 2000/01; and Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Nunavut for 2001/02 and 2002/03.

6. Due to the unavailability of data, Nova Scotia, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, British Columbia, and Nunavut have been excluded.

Source: Alternative Measures Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Youth in alternative measures per 10,000 youth population by jurisdiction, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Rate of alternative measures					% change 1998/99 to 2002/03	% change 2001/02 to 2002/03
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03		
Newfoundland and Labrador	101	120	115	111	100	-1	-10
Prince Edward Island	153	103	87	139	133	-13	-4
Nova Scotia	134	..	..	..	..	...	...
New Brunswick	117	..	..	98	106	-9	8
Quebec	165	167	168	171	187	13	9
Manitoba	154	189	153	167	117	-24	-30
Saskatchewan ¹	185	146	241	251	285	54	14
Alberta ²	384	..	..	221	244	-36	10
British Columbia	63	..	..	..	..	...	...
Yukon	141	147	169	236	315	123	33
Northwest Territories ³	264	..	..	292	401	52	37
Nunavut ⁴	...	..	..	..	..	...	...
Total⁵	158	304	322	282	299	-9⁶	8⁶
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	69	69	62	62	65	-6	5

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2000/01 data and previous years data because of changes in data collection procedures in Saskatchewan.

2. Alberta was unable to report complete data in 1999/00 and 2000/01.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, Nunavut data is not available prior to 1999.

5. The rate for Canada excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for 1999/00 and 2000/01; and Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Nunavut for 2001/02 and 2002/03.

6. Due to the unavailability of data Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia, and Nunavut have been excluded.

Source: Alternative Measures Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Divisions, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Releases from remand by time served and jurisdiction, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Remand time served (%)				
	Total (N)	1 week or less	> 1 week to 1 month	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months
Total¹	6,218	54	30	15	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	288	50	34	16	1
Prince Edward Island	43	44	40	16	0
Nova Scotia	190	67	16	17	0
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	1,710	53	24	23	0
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	2,278	54	32	13	0
British Columbia	1,607	57	34	8	0
Yukon	52	62	35	4	0
Northwest Territories	27	15	33	44	7
Nunavut	23	9	48	30	13
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	6,358	48	29	21	2

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for any specific reference period

1. Due to the unavailability of data, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan have been excluded.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13

Releases from secure and open custody by time served and jurisdiction, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Secure custody (%)				Open custody (%)			
	Total (N)	1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater	Total (N)	1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater
Total ¹	1,896	57	36	7	2,010	40	50	10
Newfoundland and Labrador	190	47	45	8	164	26	62	13
Prince Edward Island	28	57	39	4	38	26	74	0
Nova Scotia	17	6	94	0	219	47	43	10
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	150	27	61	12	280	27	61	11
Saskatchewan	180	..	..	..	218	..	..	..
Alberta	891	65	28	7	441	28	59	13
British Columbia	362	59	36	5	541	62	32	6
Yukon	12	58	25	16	20	45	45	10
Northwest Territories	52	40	50	10	66	17	70	14
Nunavut	14	29	50	21	23	26	52	22
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	1,455	48	39	13	1,497	34	52	14

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

.. not available for any specific reference period

1. Due to the unavailability of data, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario have been excluded.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 14

Percentage of admissions to probation by aggregate sentence length¹, 2000/01 to 2002/03

Admissions by sentence length	2000/01 ²	2001/02 ³	2002/03 ²
Total	9,762	9,056	7,512
6 months or less	25	22	24
More than 6 months to 1 year	48	48	48
More than 1 year to 2 years	23	25	26
Greater than 2 years ⁴	4	4	3

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%. YCCS units of count for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro-data based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. In Alberta, there are substantial methodological differences such that these statistics cannot be produced by Alberta Correctional Service. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

1. Aggregate sentence length refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve. The specific amount of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

4. Although a particular probation order may not exceed 2 years according to the YOA, some offenders may be bound by more than one probation order where the aggregate total exceeds 2 years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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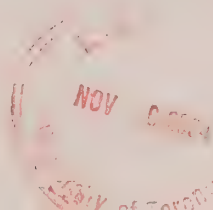


Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2002/03

by Sara Johnson

Highlights

- On an average day in 2002/03, there were approximately 156,500 adults in custody or under community supervision. The majority (79%) were being supervised in the community on probation (103,000), conditional sentence (13,000) or on provincial/territorial or federal community release (8,000). The remaining 21% were being held in sentenced custody (23,000), remand (8,700) or in temporary detention status (360).
- The overall rate of incarceration was 134 per 100,000 adults in 2002/03, relatively unchanged from 2001/02 (133).
- From 1993/94 to 2002/03, the total correctional services population in Canada has increased by just over 6%. The number of offenders under community supervision has increased by slightly more than 8%, while the custodial population has decreased by 1%.
- Remand counts continue to increase, rising 9% from 2001/02 (8,000) to 2002/03 (8,700), while provincial/territorial sentenced custody counts have dropped, falling 3% from 10,900 in 2001/02 to 10,600 in 2002/03.
- The average count of offenders on provincial parole has decreased 27% since 2001/02, more than 50% since 1998/99 and almost 75% in the last 10 years, as provinces have reduced their use.
- The average count of offenders on conditional sentences rose 8% from 2001/02 and was 88% higher than in 1997/98.
- In 2002/03, overall there were a total of nearly 369,000 admissions to correctional services, 3% higher than 2001/02. Over one-third (35%) of all admissions were to remand, while probation and provincial/territorial sentenced custody each represented 23%.
- Remand admissions continue to rise from 2001/02 to 2002/03 (+3%), while admissions to provincial/territorial and federal custody remained relatively stable. Admissions to temporary detention have also increased 12% from 2001/02 to 2002/03.
- Federal day parole releases decreased slightly (6%) from 2001/02 while full parole dropped 11%. However, the number of offenders released on statutory release increased 5%. Fewer applications to day parole or full parole may be related to increasing numbers of offenders being released on statutory release.
- In 2002/03, women represented 10% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 5% of admissions to federal custody and 17% of probation commencements and conditional sentence admissions.
- The proportion of sentenced admissions to provincial/territorial custody represented by Aboriginal people increased to 21% in 2002/03 from 15% in 1997/98. The proportion in the federal system decreased slightly from 19% in 2001/02 to 18% in 2002/03.
- Correctional services expenditures totalled \$2.7 billion in 2002/03, up 2% in constant dollars from 2001/02. Custodial services accounted for the largest proportion (72%) of the expenditures, followed by community supervision services (13%), headquarters and central services (13%), and National Parole Board and provincial parole boards (2%).



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides information on the adult correctional system, including recent trends in the supervision of adult offenders in prison and in the community, as well as the cost of these services, during fiscal year 2002/03.

The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correctional services in Canada, which includes custody (sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention) and community-based sentences as well as statutory release and parole supervision. Correctional services agencies at both levels work toward the same goal, that is, the protection of society through the safe custody, supervision, and rehabilitation of offenders and their safe reintegration into communities.

Offenders sentenced to custody by the court for a term of two years or more fall under federal jurisdiction. Federal correctional services are provided by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada¹. While the CSC is responsible for the administration of sentences and supervision of offenders, decisions to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke parole are made by the National Parole Board (NPB), which is also an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The NPB operates at the federal level and at the provincial/territorial level, where jurisdictional parole boards are not in place. The supervision of offenders released on day parole and full parole by the National Parole Board, as well as federal offenders on statutory release, is the responsibility of the Correctional Service of Canada.

Custody sentences less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation and conditional sentences, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories, as are pre-trial detention (remand) and other forms of temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds). In addition, three jurisdictions, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia have their own parole boards and are authorized to grant releases to offenders serving less than two years in prison. (See the section on definitions at the end of the *Juristat* for a description of the different types of sentences and releases).

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey for correctional services conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics². Admissions and releases data for Newfoundland and Labrador are taken from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS, see Text box 2) that is being implemented by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, and which will eventually replace the ACS survey.

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the average number or count of offenders on any given day and the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Average counts of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as an operational measure and as formal indicators of the utilization of bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facility and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Statistics

1. *Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Canada consists of the Department, and six agencies: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), National Parole Board (NPB), Canada Firearms Centre, and Canada Border Services Agency.*
2. *See the Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2002/03, data tables report, Catalogue No. 85-211. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2004 for more detailed tables.*

Text Box 1 – Correctional rehabilitation programs

The provision of correctional treatment programs is often based upon three core concepts: risk, need and responsivity (Andrews & Bonta, 1998). The risk principle asserts that criminal behaviour can be predicted and that to reduce recidivism, the level of treatment should be matched to the risk level of the offender. The need principle distinguishes between criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs. Criminogenic needs are dynamic attributes of the offender that, when changed, are associated with changes in the probability of reoffending. Non-criminogenic needs are also changeable but these changes are not usually associated with the likelihood of reoffending. In general, the need principle states that treatment services should target criminogenic needs in order to reduce the probability of recidivism. Some of the most prevalent criminogenic needs identified in the research literature include antisocial attitudes, antisocial associates, family/marital problems, low self-control, substance abuse, unemployment, low education level, etc. Responsivity refers to the delivery of treatment programs in a style and mode that is consistent with the ability and learning style of the offender. In general, use of behavioural/social learning/cognitive behavioural styles of service is recommended (Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Some of the elements of behavioural/social learning/cognitive behavioural styles of service include use of modeling (demonstrating desired behaviour), reinforcement (rewarding desired behaviour), role-playing (setting up opportunities for practice with corrective feedback), graduated practice (some behaviours are the culmination of complex skills that may best be broken down and practiced in smaller steps), extinction (assuring that undesirable behaviours are not inadvertently rewarded) and cognitive restructuring (paying attention to the risky content of thought and assist in trying out less risky thoughts) (Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Researchers using meta-analysis techniques have found that treatment that adheres to the risk, need and responsivity principles are generally more effective than either those that don't adhere to these principles, or criminal sanctions without treatment (Andrews, Zinger, Hoge, Bonta, Gendreau & Cullen, 1990). Risk, need and responsivity principles will often influence rehabilitative programming in correctional services. Examples of rehabilitative programs available in several different jurisdictions are presented below.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), which is responsible for the care of offenders serving custodial sentences of two years or more, provides a wide range of programs both within the prison system and to offenders on parole. Since the CSC is responsible for offenders serving lengthy sentences and who have more serious offence histories, there are a wide variety of treatment programs available to meet offender needs. In addition to meeting offenders' basic needs, the CSC must also assist them to address the underlying causes

of their criminal behaviour through rehabilitative programming. Programs focus on several main areas: cognitive skills, anger management, violent behaviour, substance abuse, sexual deviance, family violence, education and literacy. Psychiatric and psychological counselling are available to address mental health needs, while academic and vocational education opportunities are also available. Core programs available to offenders include literacy programs, cognitive skills training, living skills programs, sex offender treatment programs, substance abuse interventions, family violence prevention programs, violence prevention programs and LifeLine (to assist long term offenders in their reintegration into the community). There are also specialized programs for Aboriginal offenders and for women offenders. In addition, CORCAN, a special operating agency of CSC responsible for aiding the safe reintegration of offenders into Canadian society, provides employment and training opportunities to incarcerated and recently released offenders.

The provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of all other non-custodial sentences such as probation and conditional sentences, as well as custodial sentences of less than two years in length. In the provinces and territories, various programs have been developed to help rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders as well as to assist victims. For example, the ministère de la Sécurité publique in Quebec offers a varied training program to inmates, who often have limited education and weaknesses in the area of employment readiness. Training is available at the elementary and secondary levels in literacy, French and mathematics. The local school board provides this training under an agreement with the ministère de l'Éducation. Occupational training and courses dealing with life skills, personal hygiene and other problematic issues identified by inmates are also available.

The Yukon Community and Correctional Services has a Victims Services/Family Violence Prevention Unit to assist victims of crime and family violence, and to help rehabilitate offenders and abusive spouses. In New Brunswick, the Ministry of Public Safety has developed the Fine Option Program, which offers offenders who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them by the court an alternative to the prison sentence that might be served for non payment. In lieu of a monetary payment, offenders may do voluntary work for a non-profit community or government organization.

The above are but a few examples of the many programs that have been implemented in the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Information on these and other programs is available on governmental websites.

derived from one-day snapshot counts are more likely to include individuals serving longer sentences, and therefore, average count statistics are more representative of longer term inmates (i.e., more likely to be male, to have committed a more serious offence, to have a longer criminal record, etc.). For example, remand offenders, whose time in custody is relatively short, represented 52% of provincial and territorial admissions in 2002/03, but only 45% of the average daily count.

Admissions data are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseload in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals using the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the ACS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number

of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of the *Juristat*.

Text box 2 – Integrated Correctional Services Survey

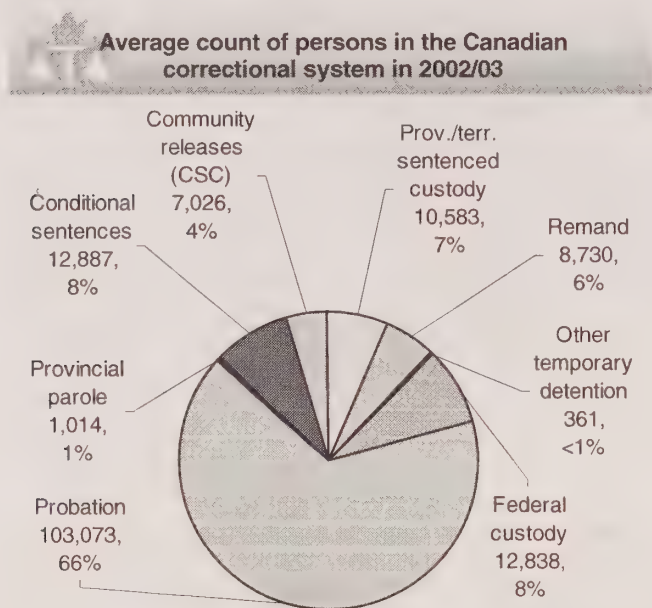
Newfoundland and Labrador admission and release data reported in this *Juristat* have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), a new person-based survey that is currently being implemented in several jurisdictions across Canada. The ICSS collects detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services in Canada. These micro-data are collected through three distinct records organized by offender (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, Aboriginal status, etc.), their correctional programs (e.g., pre-trial custody, sentence type, community release, aggregate time served, admitting and releasing facilities, etc.), and different events that occur while under supervision (e.g., escapes, temporary absences, etc.). The records are longitudinal, permitting analysis of correctional service histories and follow-up analysis. These histories can be examined in relation to concepts such as offence histories, prior supervision types, breaches of conditional release, and the length of time between readmissions. An upcoming *Juristat* will demonstrate the utility of ICSS data in constructing criminal careers using corrections histories. In addition, the survey examines key corrections concepts such as the assessment of offender needs, conditions attached to conditional releases, and security concerns associated with offenders under correctional supervision.

Correctional system average counts

In 2002/03, there was an average daily count of approximately 156,500 adults in custody or under community supervision, virtually unchanged from 2001/02. This includes over 32,000 (21%) in federal or provincial/territorial custody consisting of approximately 23,000 (15%) sentenced inmates, just over 8,700 (6%) held on remand status and 360 (<1%) inmates held in other temporary detention, such as immigration holds (Figure 1).

An average of 124,000 offenders (79%) were being supervised in the community. Approximately 103,000 (66%) were on probation, almost 13,000 (8%) were serving a conditional sentence and over 8,000 (5%) were on provincial/territorial (i.e., provincial parole) or federal community release (i.e., day parole, full parole or statutory release).

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Overall, from 1993/94 to 2002/03, the total average count of the correctional services population in Canada has increased by 7% (Text table 1)³. The number of offenders under community supervision has increased by 9%, while the custodial population has decreased by 1%.

The size of the custodial population in 2002/03 was similar to that observed in 2001/02, however the composition of the custodial population changed slightly with provincial/territorial sentenced custody representing a slightly smaller proportion of the total custodial population (32% vs. 34%) and remand representing a slightly larger proportion (27% vs. 25%). Furthermore, the composition of the total custodial population has changed substantially over the last ten years, with the proportion of provincial/territorial sentenced custody decreasing while remand has been increasing. In 1993/94 there were almost 13,600 offenders in provincial/territorial

sentenced custody and over 5,000 adults in remand, representing 42% and 16% of the total custodial population, respectively. Ten years later, in 2002/03, the provincial/territorial sentenced custodial population decreased by 25% while the remand population increased 70%, representing 32% and 27% of the total custodial population, respectively.

Remands continue to rise

In 2002/03, there was an average daily count of 8,700 persons on remand, an increase of 9% from 2001/02 (almost 8,000). Increases occurred in all provinces and territories with the exception of the Newfoundland and Labrador (no change) and the Northwest Territories (-4%) (see Text table 2). The average number of adults held on remand, and the proportion of the custodial population that they represented, have been increasing steadily since the mid-1980's⁴. Over the last ten years, average counts of persons held on remand have increased in all jurisdictions ranging from 18% in Quebec to 162% in Manitoba.

Average daily counts of adults held in other temporary detention have also increased in the last ten years (Text table 1). In 2002/03, an adjusted average of 282⁵ persons were held on other temporary detention (immigration holds, etc.), relatively unchanged from 2001/02 (259), but three times higher than in 1993/94 (89).

While remand counts have increased, provincial/territorial sentenced custody counts have decreased. From 2001/02 to 2002/03, the number of offenders in provincial/territorial sentenced custody decreased 3% from 10,900 to 10,600⁶ (Text table 1). As a result, their proportion among the total custodial population also decreased, from 34% in 2001/02 to 32% in 2002/03 (see Text table 1). Most jurisdictions (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon) had declines in sentenced custody counts from 2001/02 to 2002/03. All jurisdictions have had decreases since 1993/94, ranging from 7% in the Northwest Territories/Nunavut to 55% in Nova Scotia (see Text table 2). In total, provincial/territorial sentenced custody as a proportion of the total custodial population decreased from 42% in 1993/94 to 32% in 2002/03 (Text table 1). The decreases in provincial/territorial custody may be partly attributed to the introduction of conditional sentences in 1996⁷. Decreasing sentenced custody trends are also consistent with decreases in crime rates in the 1990's (Wallace, 2003) and in the number of cases disposed of in adult criminal court.

3. Because of missing data for some years, data from New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from comparisons between 2002/03 and 1998/99 or 1993/94. Comparisons between 2002/03 and 2001/02 are made based upon the actual average count without any exclusions.
4. Johnson, S. 2003. "Custodial Remand in Canada, 1986/87 to 2000/01." Juristat, 23, 7. Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.
5. The ten year 'other temporary detention' time series excludes British Columbia in addition to New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In comparing 2002/03 to 2001/02 levels, data from all jurisdictions were included.
6. In making comparisons between 2002/03 and 2001/02, refer to 'actual average count' in Text Table 1.
7. See Hendrick, D., Martin, M., & Greenberg, P. (2003). "Conditional Sentencing in Canada: A Statistical Profile 1997-2001." Catalogue no. 85-560-XIE. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Text Table 1

Composition of the adult correctional population, 1993/94, 1998/99, 2001/02 and 2002/03

	1993/94			1998/99			2001/02			2002/03			2002/03		
													% change in adjusted average count		
	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	From 2001/02	From 1998/99	From 1993/94
Correctional services															
Custodial supervision:															
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	14,251	13,583	9.3	12,478	11,895 ^r	8.0	10,931	10,509	6.8	10,583	10,139	6.5	-3.5	-14.8	-25.4
Remand	5,130	5,049	3.5	6,472	6,376	4.3	7,980	7,834	5.1	8,730	8,583	5.5	9.6	34.6	70.0
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial ²	100	89	0.1	271	264	0.2	351	259	0.2	361	282	0.2	8.9	6.7	216.5
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,481	18,721	12.8	19,220	18,534 ^r	12.5	19,262	18,602	12.1	19,674	19,004	12.2	2.2	2.5	1.5
Federal custody, sentenced	13,322	13,322	9.1	13,170	13,170 ^r	8.9	12,750 ^r	12,750 ^r	8.3	12,838	12,838	8.3	0.7	-2.5	-3.6
Total custodial supervision	32,803	32,043	22.0	32,390	31,704^r	21.4	32,012	31,352	20.4	32,512	31,842	20.5	1.6	0.4	-0.6
Community supervision:															
Probation	102,402	99,847	68.4	101,868	99,269	67.0	101,915	101,815	66.2 ^r	103,073	102,650	66.0	0.8	3.4	2.8
Provincial parole	3,860	3,860	2.6	2,147	2,147	1.4	1,388	1,388	0.9	1,014	1,014	0.7	-27.0	-52.8	-73.7
Conditional sentences	...	...	...	7,627	7,627	5.1	11,941	11,917	7.7 ^r	12,887	12,881	8.3	8.1	68.9	...
Total provincial community supervision	106,262	103,707	71.1	111,642	109,043	73.6	115,243	115,119	74.8	116,974	116,545	75.0	1.2	6.9	12.4
Community releases (CSC)	10,132	10,132	6.9	7,500	7,500 ^r	5.1	7,397	7,397	4.8 ^r	7,026	7,026	4.5	-5.0	-6.3	-30.7
Total community supervision	116,394	113,839	78.0	119,142	116,543	78.6	122,641	122,517	79.6	124,000	123,571	79.5	0.9	6.0	8.5
Total correctional services	149,197	145,882	100.0	151,532	148,247^r	100.0	154,653	153,868	100.0	156,512	155,413	100.0	1.0	4.8	6.5

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Because of missing community supervision data for some years, data from New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the "Adjusted Average Count" in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics are based upon adjusted average counts.

2. Due to missing data for some years, other temporary detention counts from British Columbia were excluded from "Adjusted Average Daily Count" in order to make comparisons between years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text Table 2

Variation in the average count of persons in provincial and territorial sentenced custody and on remand between 1993/94 and 2002/03

Province or territory	Sentenced custody					Remand				
	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	% change	% change	1993/94	2001/02	2002/03	% change	% change
				2001/02- 2002/03	1993/94- 2002/03				2001/02- 2002/03	1993/94- 2002/03
Newfoundland and Labrador	346	256	232	-9.3	-32.8	34	51	51	0.0	49.4
Prince Edward Island	88	51	56	8.9	-36.4	8	11	18	69.6	122.8
Nova Scotia	363	187	164	-12.3	-54.8	73	112	122	8.9	67.1
New Brunswick	410	208	204	-1.9	-50.2	46	90	94	4.4	104.3
Quebec ¹	2,328	2,195	2,263	3.1	...	1,217	1,318	1,437	9.0	18.1
Ontario	4,786	3,631	3,438	-5.3	-28.2	2,381	3,999	4,373	9.4	83.7
Manitoba	654	545	560	2.9	-14.3	237	570	620	8.8	161.6
Saskatchewan	1,060	839	867	3.3	-18.2	154	303	346	14.2	124.7
Alberta	2,240	1,369	1,322	-3.4	-41.0	478	714	794	11.2	66.1
British Columbia	1,664	1,400	1,210	-13.5	-27.3	449	739	798	7.9	77.6
Yukon	55	37	27	-26.0	-50.9	18	17	24	41.5	34.4
Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) ²	258	214	240	11.9	-7.2	35	56	54	-4.5	52.9

... not applicable

1. Please note that in Quebec, the sentenced custody count for 1993/94 includes offenders serving intermittent sentences, while the count for 2001/02 and 2002/03 does not, and therefore comparisons between 1993/94 and 2001/02 or 2002/03 should not be performed.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Provincial parole continues to decrease

The use of provincial parole has continued to decrease, declining 27% since 2001/02, more than 50% in the last five years, and almost 75% in the last ten years. These declines can mainly be attributed to decreases in provincial parole counts in Quebec (-56%) and Ontario (-63%) occurring from 1998/99 to 2002/03.

Conditional sentences continue to increase

The average daily count of offenders on conditional sentences in 2002/03 of 12,900 was 8% higher than in 2001/02, and 88% higher than in 1997/98, the first full year of data on conditional sentences. In 2002/03, offenders on conditional sentences composed 8% of the total correctional population, compared to 5% of the correctional population in 1998/99.

The profile of correctional services differs by jurisdiction

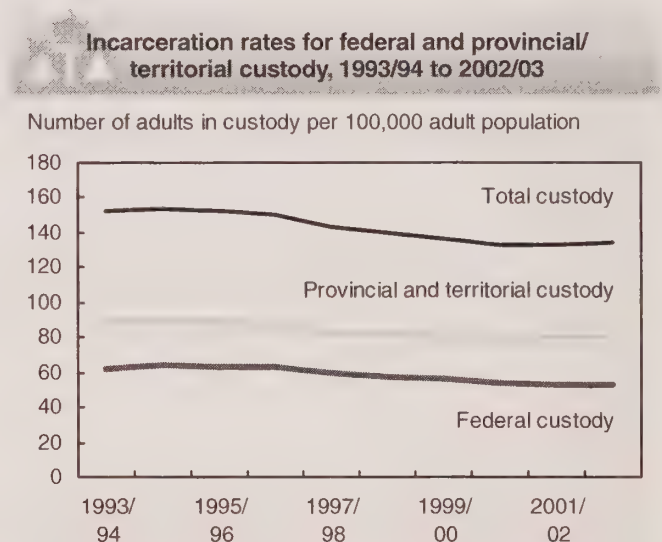
In 2002/03, there was an average of 135,600 adults being supervised in the provincial/territorial correctional system in sentenced custody, remand/temporary detention, probation or conditional sentence, an increase of approximately 5% over the last five years. However, the proportional representation in each status had shifted. The share of the provincial/territorial correctional population held in remand or temporary detention grew to 7% in 2002/03 from 5% in 1998/99. The share of offenders serving a conditional sentence also rose to 10% from 6% over this period. Conversely, the share of the population sentenced to custody or serving probation declined (see Text table 3).

In 2002/03, 70% or more of the average daily count of individuals in correctional services were on probation in most jurisdictions (Text Table 3). Proportionally, the probation count was approximately 85% in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. Proportionally, provincial/territorial sentenced custody ranged from 4% of corrections caseload in Nova Scotia to 27% in the Northwest Territories. Conditional sentence proportions ranged from 1% in the Northwest Territories to 22% in Quebec. The division of caseload in Quebec was generally much different than other jurisdictions, having the lowest proportion of the provincial/territorial correctional population in probation (54%) and highest proportion of remand/temporary detention (9%) and conditional sentences (22%) relative to other jurisdictions. However, this finding needs to be put into the context of the relatively small correctional population in Quebec. For example, the average count of probationers in Quebec is one-seventh of Ontario's count (8,552 vs. 56,030).

Incarceration rate remains stable

In order to get a better sense of the relative change in the size of the correctional population, it is useful to examine incarceration rates. The incarceration rate is the daily average number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention for every 100,000 adults in Canada (see Table 1 for Adult Population figures). In 2002/03, the total incarceration rate remained relatively unchanged from 2001/02 (133) at 134 per 100,000 adult population (Figure 2). The incarceration rate has declined 13% since its peak in 1994/95 (154 per 100,000). Although both provincial/territorial (provincial/territorial sentenced custody, remand, other temporary detention) and federal (federal sentenced custody) incarceration rates have contributed to this decrease, the provincial/territorial rate peaked at 91 in 1992/93 and has been declining ever since, while the federal rate peaked at 64 in 1994/95 and decreased thereafter.

Figure 2



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

In 2002/03 the provincial/territorial incarceration rate was 81, up one from 1999/00 (Text table 4). Provincially, there was considerable variation in incarceration rates ranging from 40 in Nova Scotia to 161 in Saskatchewan, with territorial rates being much higher. Incarceration rates were stable or declined between 1998/99 and 2002/03, with the exception of Manitoba and Quebec where incarceration rates were higher in 2002/03 than in 1998/99.

Text Table 3

Distribution of provincial/territorial correctional service program by jurisdiction, 1993/94, 1998/99 and 2002/03

Province or territory		Provincial/territorial sentenced custody		Remand and other temporary detention		Probation		Conditional sentence		Total
		No.	Proportion of correctional services count	No.	Proportion of correctional services count	No.	Proportion of correctional services count	No.	Proportion of correctional services count	
Newfoundland and Labrador	1993/94	346	12.0	34	1.2	2,499	86.8	...	...	2,879
	1998/99	258	9.3	57	2.1	2,337	84.1	128	4.6	2,780
	2002/03	232	8.8	61	2.3	2,235	84.7	110	4.2	2,639
Prince Edward Island	1993/94	88	9.2	8	0.8	862	90.0	...	...	958
	1998/99	73	...	12	...	886	...	...	...	...
	2002/03	56	8.8	23	3.6	546	86.0	10	1.6	635
Nova Scotia	1993/94	363	7.9	73	1.6	4,170	90.5	...	...	4,606
	1998/99	285	...	91	...	5,209	...	...	...	...
	2002/03	164	3.5	132	2.9	3,942	85.3	386	8.3	4,624
New Brunswick	1993/94	410	13.6	57	1.9	2,555	84.5	...	...	3,022
	1998/99	274	...	54	...	2,599	...	...	...	...
	2002/03	204	...	110	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quebec	1993/94	2,328	15.1	1,217	7.9	11,824	76.9	...	...	15,369
	1998/99	2,102	16.1	1,219	9.3	7,296	55.9	2,444	18.7	13,061
	2002/03	2,263	14.3	1,454	9.2	8,552	54.1	3,536	22.4	15,805
Ontario	1993/94	4,786	8.1	2,468	4.2	51,997	87.8	...	...	59,251
	1998/99	4,441	7.1	3,247	5.2	52,659	84.1	2,268	3.6	62,615
	2002/03	3,438	5.1	4,612	6.9	56,030	83.2	3,246	4.8	67,326
Manitoba ¹	1993/94	654	10.4	239	3.8	5,385	85.8	...	...	6,278
	1998/99	615	9.4	456	7.0	5,167	78.9	311	4.7	6,549
	2002/03	560	6.5	620	7.2	6,577	76.0	899	10.4	8,656
Saskatchewan	1993/94	1,060	23.6	154	3.4	3,277	73.0	...	...	4,491
	1998/99	955	16.8	254	4.5	3,760	66.2	713	12.5	5,682
	2002/03	867	13.2	346	5.3	4,144	63.2	1,197	18.3	6,554
Alberta	1993/94	2,240	22.1	478	4.7	7,415	73.2	...	...	10,133
	1998/99	1,601	14.8	525	4.9	7,968	73.8	704	6.5	10,798
	2002/03	1,322	11.0	794	6.6	8,468	70.4	1,440	12.0	12,024
British Columbia	1993/94	1,664	11.8	449	3.2	11,985	85.0	...	...	14,098
	1998/99	1,513	9.0	757	4.5	13,495	80.3	1,033	6.1	16,798
	2002/03	1,210	7.6	854	5.4	11,819	74.3	2,021	12.7	15,904
Yukon	1993/94	55	10.9	18	3.6	433	85.6	...	...	506
	1998/99	52	8.8	22	3.6	492	83.1	26	4.4	592
	2002/03	27	6.4	24	5.7	337	79.2	37	8.7	425
Northwest Territories	1993/94	258	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1998/99	309	...	49	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2002/03	174	27.2	36	5.6	423	66.2	6	0.9	639
Nunavut	1993/94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1998/99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2002/03	66	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total²	1993/94	14,251	11.7	5,230	4.3	102,402	84.0	...	...	121,883
	1998/99	12,478	9.7	6,743	5.2	101,868	79.1	7,627	5.9	128,715
	2002/03	10,583	7.8	9,091	6.7	103,073	76.0	12,887	9.5	135,634

Note: Total count used in proportion calculations includes Provincial/territorial sentenced custody, Remand, Other temporary detention, Probation, Conditional Sentences.

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Other temporary detention data unavailable, and is therefore excluded from the total.

2. Includes all available data per category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text Table 4

Variation in adult incarceration rates¹ over time, provincial, territorial and federal correctional services, 1998/99 to 2002/03

	Rate per 100,000 adult population ¹					% change from 2001/02 to 2002/03	% change from 1998/99 to 2002/03
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03		
Newfoundland and Labrador	75	66	69	76	70	-7.6	-7.2
Prince Edward Island	83	79	82	61	74	19.9	-11.1
Nova Scotia	52	48	47	42	40	-4.3	-23.4
New Brunswick	56	54	48	53	53	-0.3	-6.5
Quebec	58	55	56	61	63	4.3	7.9
Ontario	89	84	85	86	87	0.7	-2.5
Manitoba	127	129	130	129	136	5.5	7.9
Saskatchewan	161	152	150	151	161	6.3	-0.3
Alberta	99	90	85	91	90	-0.8	-9.1
British Columbia	74	82	79	69	63	-7.7	-14.0
Yukon	320	270	235	238	227	-4.8	-29.3
Northwest Territories & Nunavut ²	838	...	644	642	665	3.6	-20.7
<i>Provincial/territorial total</i>	83	80	79	80	81	0.7	-3.1
<i>Federal total</i>	57	56	54	53	53	-0.8	-7.7

Note: Rates have been rounded; however, the percent change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

... not applicable

1. Average number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention per 100,000 adult population.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Overview of annual admissions to correctional services

In 2002/03, there were approximately 369,000 admissions to correctional service programs, 3% higher than in 2001/02⁸. About 70% of admissions were to custody and 30% to community supervision (Text table 5). Over one-third (35%) of all admissions to correctional services were to remand, while probation and provincial/territorial sentenced custody each represented 23% of admissions in 2002/03.

Admissions to custody

Admissions to correctional services programs exceed 1993/94 levels

Total admissions to correctional service programs⁹ have risen steadily since 1998/99, increasing 12% after several years of decline (Text table 6). The bulk of this increase has been to provincial/territorial custodial programs, particularly to remand and other temporary detention (Text table 7).

Admissions to remand and other temporary detention increase; sentenced custody remains stable

In 2002/03, there were 130,000 remand admissions, an increase of 3% from 2001/02 (Table 2). However, there was substantial variation in the provinces and territories. At the provincial/territorial level, all jurisdictions except for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Yukon, and Nunavut had increases in remand admissions from 2001/02 to 2002/03 ranging from 3% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 49% in Prince Edward Island.

Text Table 5

Composition of admissions to the adult correctional population, 2002/03

Correctional services	Number	% of total
Custodial supervision:		
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	83,885	22.7
Remand	130,021	35.3
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	35,308	9.6
Total provincial/territorial custody	249,214	67.6
Federal custody, sentenced	7,659	2.1
Total custodial supervision	256,873	69.7
Community supervision:		
Probation	83,250	22.6
Provincial parole	2,024	0.5
Conditional sentences	19,204	5.2
Total provincial community supervision	104,478	28.3
Community releases (CSC) ¹	7,428	2.0
Total community supervision	111,906	30.3
Total correctional services	368,779	100.0

1. Includes day parole, full parole and statutory release.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

8. Comparison between 2002/03 and 2001/02 excludes Manitoba probation admissions. Due to information system changes in Manitoba in 2002/03, probation admission counts are not comparable to previous years.

9. See "Data sources and measures" section, earlier in this report for a definition of admissions. Please note that New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Manitoba and Nunavut were excluded for date comparisons due to missing data for some years.

Text Box 3 – International incarceration rates

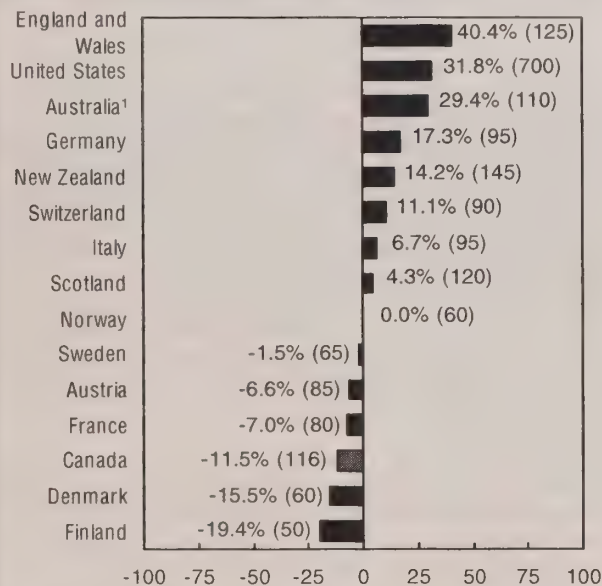
Due to differences in the operation of criminal justice systems and variations in methods used to calculate incarceration rates across countries, direct comparison of these rates is not advisable. However, by examining changes in incarceration rates over time within countries, trends in the extent to which countries use incarceration can be examined.

Figure 3 presents percentage change in incarceration rates between 1993 and 2001 for 15 western countries. During this period, trends differed considerably with over half of the countries experiencing increases in their incarceration rates. Canada, however, is among six countries that experienced a decrease. In absolute terms, Canada experienced the largest decline, dropping 15 points from 131 incarcerated persons per 100,000 total population¹⁰ in 1993 to 116 in 2001. While Denmark and Finland had smaller absolute declines (-11 points and -12 points respectively), their overall rate is much lower resulting in a higher overall percentage change than in Canada. Among the eight countries with increasing incarceration rates, increases ranged from 5 points in Scotland (from 115 to 120) to 169 points in the United States (from 531 to 700). England and Wales also experienced an overall increase of 36 points from 89 in 1993 to 125 in 2001 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3

Change in international incarceration rates from 1993 to 2001

Percent change in incarceration rates, 1993 to 2001



Note: Figures in parentheses indicate 2001 incarceration rates. These rates are calculated using the total population as the denominator.

Due to differences in the operation of criminal justice systems and variations in methods used to calculate incarceration rates across countries, direct comparison of these rates is not advisable.

1. Represents percentage change from 1994 to 2001 due to the unavailability of 1993 data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; World Population List, Research Findings No. 166, Home Office Research, United Kingdom.

Incarceration rates can be affected by a number of factors including changes in the profile of the population, in the crime rate and in criminal justice policy. In Canada, the crime rate decreased beginning in the early 1990's. In 1996, a major policy initiative, the conditional sentence, was introduced with the explicit goal of reducing the use of incarceration by permitting offenders to serve their sentence in the community¹¹ (see Definitions section at the end of this report for more information).

A more detailed examination of the situation in Canada, England and Wales and the United States suggests the importance of criminal justice policy in influencing incarceration trends. In Canada, while a slight decline in the incarceration rate coincided with the declining crime rate between 1993 and 1997, a much larger decline occurred following implementation of conditional sentences. England and Wales also experienced a decline in crime between 1993 and 1997, but experienced a large increase in its incarceration rate. This rapid increase in the prison population and incarceration rate in England and Wales has been attributed to "public anxiety, aggravated by media reaction to one particularly serious murder [the murder of James Bulger in 1993] and to crimes in general" (Walmsley, 2001). As well, England and Wales made a number of important changes to sentencing policy with the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act in 1992, which affected the numbers sentenced to custody and the sentence lengths given. In addition, changes were made to provisions of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in 1994, such as increased maximum sentence length for juveniles in certain circumstances. The incarceration rate continued to increase between 1997 and 2001, corresponding, at least in part, with an increase in the crime rate¹². As well, the Crime (Sentences) Act, which included provisions for automatic life sentence for offenders convicted a second time for a serious violent or sex offence, and mandatory minimum sentences for certain repeat offenders of drug offences and domestic burglary, received Royal Assent in 1997¹³. Since the early 1990's, the use of custodial sentences increased by 40% and sentence lengths rose by more than 10% in England and Wales (Walmsley, 2001).

The United States, which already had a comparably high incarceration rate among western countries, experienced a large increase in incarceration rate between 1993 and 2001 despite a declining crime rate¹⁴. Climbing incarceration rates in the United States have been attributed to policy changes rooted in the 'get tough on crime' model initiated during the 1980s and 1990s that included 'truth in sentencing', 'war on drugs', and 'three strikes' policies¹⁵ (Ditton and Wilson, 1999). These initiatives resulted in longer custodial sentences and offenders serving a longer portion of their sentence before being eligible for parole (Ditton and Wilson, 1999).

10. The rate in this text box represents the total incarceration rate and includes all persons, adult and youth, incarcerated in Canada divided by the total Canadian population. The incarceration rate referred to elsewhere in the Juristat is calculated on the basis of the number of adults in custody in Canada divided by the total Canadian adult population.

11. Department of Justice. Conditional Sentencing Series – Fact Sheet #1: What is a Conditional Sentence? Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice. Available at: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/rs/index.html>.

12. Home Office, 2002. "Criminal statistics England and Wales 2001" Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, Norwich, England.

13. Chapman, B. and S. Niven, 2000. A Guide to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. London: United Kingdom.

14. U.S. Department of Justice, 2002. "Crime in the United States 2001". U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Washington, D.C., United States of America.

15. Truth in sentencing laws require offenders to serve a substantial portion of their prison sentence while parole eligibility and good-time credits are restricted or eliminated. The 'war on drugs' began in the 1970s and included the expansion of criminal sanctions for drug crimes followed by the passage of the Anti-Drug Abuse Acts of 1986 and 1988. 'Three strikes' laws typically invoke an extended sentence (often life imprisonment) following, usually, three instances of conviction of sufficiently severe crimes.

Text Table 6

Admissions to correctional services¹, 1993/94 to 2002/03

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Provincial/territorial²										
Custody	224,350	223,032	216,163	215,754	202,949	195,800	199,971	207,750	219,388 ^r	226,374
Community supervision	81,511	80,097	77,496	87,496	92,395	89,879	89,424	91,837 ^r	95,907 ^r	96,643
<i>Provincial/territorial admissions</i>	<i>305,861</i>	<i>303,129</i>	<i>293,659</i>	<i>303,250</i>	<i>295,344</i>	<i>285,679</i>	<i>289,395</i>	<i>299,587</i>	<i>315,295</i>	<i>323,017</i>
Federal										
Custody	9,934	9,079	7,849 ^r	7,422 ^r	7,342 ^r	7,855 ^r	7,906 ^r	7,685 ^r	7,458 ^r	7,659
Community supervision ³	8,140	7,406	7,487	6,987	7,676	7,648	7,647	7,436	7,336 ^r	7,428
<i>Federal admissions</i>	<i>18,074</i>	<i>16,485</i>	<i>15,336^r</i>	<i>14,409^r</i>	<i>15,018^r</i>	<i>15,503^r</i>	<i>15,553^r</i>	<i>15,121^r</i>	<i>14,794^r</i>	<i>15,087</i>
Total										
Custody	234,284	232,111	224,012 ^r	223,176 ^r	210,291 ^r	203,655 ^r	207,877 ^r	215,435 ^r	226,846 ^r	234,033
Community supervision	89,651	87,503	84,983	94,483	100,071	97,527	97,071	99,273	103,243 ^r	104,071
<i>Total admissions</i>	<i>323,935</i>	<i>319,614</i>	<i>308,995^r</i>	<i>317,659^r</i>	<i>310,362^r</i>	<i>301,182^r</i>	<i>304,948^r</i>	<i>314,708^r</i>	<i>330,089^r</i>	<i>338,104</i>

^r revised

1. Due to missing data for some years, New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador - Data commencing in 2001/02 are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes day parole, full parole and statutory release.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Conversely, admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody remained relatively unchanged from the previous year, the second consecutive year that the number of admissions remained relatively stable since the downward trend in numbers of admissions began approximately ten years ago. Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported annual increases, as did the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Admissions to federal custody decreased from its peak of almost 10,000 in 1993/94 to 7,700 in 2002/03 (Text table 6).

In 2002/03, there were 35,300 other temporary detention admissions (Table 2). The number of admissions to temporary detention rose 12% from 2001/02 to 2002/03 (Table 2). Increases in admissions to temporary detention from 2001/02 to 2002/03 were noted in all jurisdictions except for British Columbia (-2%) Yukon (-46%), and the Northwest Territories (-85%) from 2001/02 to 2002/03. Large fluctuations in admissions to temporary detention in the Northwest Territories are primarily due to large variability in small numbers, which thereby produce large percentage changes. These increases may be due, in part, to an increase in the number of immigration holds after the events on September 11, 2001, and due to changes in judicial practices in the use of temporary detention (e.g., judicial orders and assessment orders). From 1999/00 to 2002/03, admissions to other temporary detention (excluding New Brunswick and British Columbia)¹⁶ have increased 58% from approximately 13,600 to 21,600 (see Text table 7).

Substantial variability in offence profiles of admissions across jurisdictions in 2002/03

In the Adult Correctional Services Survey, when there is more than one offence leading to incarceration, only data related to the most serious offence in the case is recorded (except in Alberta and Northwest Territories, which use multiple charge

data to record all offences, and British Columbia which uses the most serious disposition methodology). As a result, the less serious offences are under-represented and jurisdictions using this methodology are not directly comparable to those using multiple charge (Alberta and Northwest Territories) or most serious disposition (British Columbia) methodologies. Consequently, the following jurisdictional analysis includes only those jurisdictions employing the most serious offence methodology. Most offenders admitted to sentenced custody in 2002/03 were sentenced under the provisions of the *Criminal Code*. That is, 80% or more sentenced custody admissions in all jurisdictions were sentenced under the *Criminal Code* with the exception of Quebec (41%).

Jurisdictions vary considerably in the offence profile of custody admissions (Table 3). Since admissions to federal custody include offenders serving longer sentences (two year or more) than provincial/territorial custody admissions, they tend to represent offenders with more serious offences. Among admissions to federal custody, 54% were admitted with a violent offence as their most serious offence. In the provinces and territories in 2002/03, violent offences accounted for between 5% (Quebec) and 73% (Nunavut) of admissions. Violent offences were more prevalent than property offences as the most serious offence in six jurisdictions: Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut. In contrast, admission to custody for a property crime was more frequent than for a violent crime in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

16. Due to missing data for some years, data from New Brunswick and British Columbia for all years, and data from Manitoba were removed from the years prior to 1999/00 to allow for year-over-year comparisons over this time period. However, since all data were available in 2001/02 and 2002/03, when making comparisons between these two years, all data have been included.

Text Table 7

Provincial and territorial admissions to custody, 1993/94 to 2002/03

Year	Sentenced custody		Remand		Temporary detention	
	Number ¹	% change	Number ¹	% change	Number ²	% change
1993/94	112,947	...	106,182	...	6,564	...
1994/95	111,233	-1.5	106,805	0.6	6,397	-2.5
1995/96	108,746	-2.2	101,879	-4.6	5,538	-13.4
1996/97	103,015	-5.3	103,968	2.1	8,771	58.4
1997/98	94,911	-7.9	101,736	-2.1	8,989	2.5
1998/99	89,379	-5.8	100,692	-1.0	8,616	-4.1
1999/00	84,706	...	110,091	...	13,644	...
2000/01	80,928	-4.5	118,566	7.7	11,702	-14.2
2001/02 ³	81,510 ^r	0.7	124,464 ^r	5.0	17,539 ^r	49.9
2002/03 ³	82,427	1.1	128,742	3.4	21,581	23.0

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Because of missing sentenced custody and remand data for some years in New Brunswick and Manitoba, data from New Brunswick have been removed from all years and Manitoba data have been removed from the years prior to 1999/00 to allow for year-over-year comparisons.

2. Because of missing temporary detention data for some years in New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia, data from New Brunswick and British Columbia have been removed from all years and Manitoba data have been removed from the years prior to 1999/00 to allow for year-over-year comparisons.

3. Newfoundland and Labrador - Data commencing in 2001/02 are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

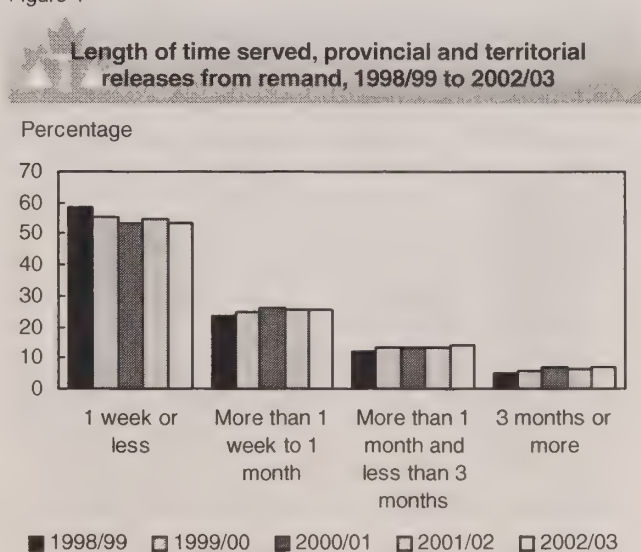
Relative to the other jurisdictions, the percentage of admissions where the most serious offence was impaired driving was much more common in Prince Edward Island in 2002/03, at 52%. In comparison, impaired driving accounted for between 1% and 13% of admissions in other jurisdictions. This result is consistent with findings from the adult criminal court data, where 89% of all impaired driving convictions in Prince Edward Island resulted in incarceration (Ciccone McCutcheon, 2003).

Admissions due to drug offences were the most common most serious offence at the federal level (14%) but also relatively frequent for Ontario (8%), Prince Edward Island (6%), Nova Scotia (6%) and Quebec (6%). Fifty-three percent of admissions in Quebec were due to other provincial and territorial statutes and municipal by-laws¹⁷.

Length of remand increasing

Although time spent on remand is generally short, the duration has been increasing (see Figure 4). In 2002/03, 47% of releases from remand had spent more than one week on remand compared to 41% in 1998/99. Lengthy remand durations are more common in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, and in the Northwest Territories, where 86%, 77% and 71% respectively, of releases from remand had served more than one week. Median duration of remand¹⁸ was also longer in Newfoundland and Labrador (34 days) and Northwest Territories (22 days), compared to the other jurisdictions which had medians ranging from 2 to 8 days.

Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

17. In situations where fines are levied, the offender can be incarcerated for non-payment or, if already incarcerated, seek to serve a custodial sentence in lieu of payment of fines.

18. Median duration of remand was unavailable for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nunavut. Median duration is the number of days at which half of the inmates have served more days and half have served fewer.

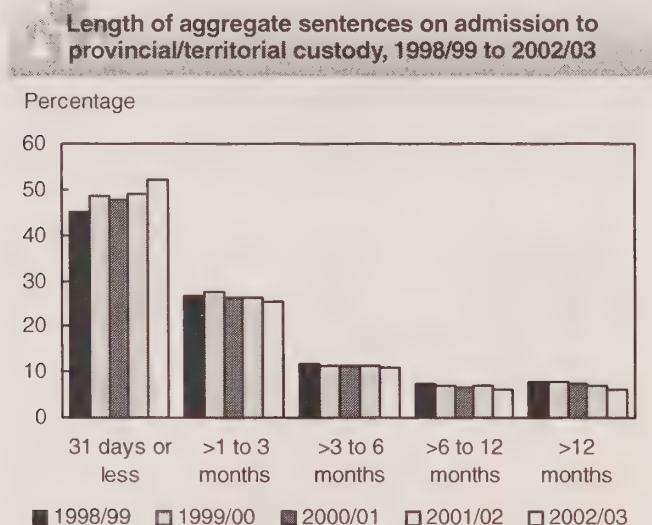
Text Box 4 – Sentence Aggregation

The Adult Correctional Services (ACS) survey counts all admissions to correctional service programs of remand, sentenced custody, supervised probation and conditional sentence. These are tabulated based on aggregate sentence. This means that programs of the same type are counted according to the total aggregate time, including those that are concurrent or consecutive. For example, two nine-month programs of sentenced custody that overlap by three months would be counted as one admission for 15 months. This differs from court-based data in that sentence lengths are recorded for the sentence attached to the most serious offence, however, consecutive and concurrent sentences of the same type are not aggregated. Please note that, as a result, courts-based data on sentences to correctional supervision according to their lengths should not be directly compared with corrections-based admissions by aggregate sentence length.

Offenders spending shorter periods in sentenced custody

As duration of remand has increased in the last five years, sentenced custody aggregate sentence lengths at admission have been decreasing in both the provincial and federal systems. In the provincial/territorial system, 52% of offenders were admitted with aggregate sentences of 31 days or less in 2002/03, compared to 45% in 1998/99 (Figure 5). For the ten reporting jurisdictions, the median sentence length at admission ranged from 21 days in Alberta to 122 days in the Northwest Territories.

Figure 5

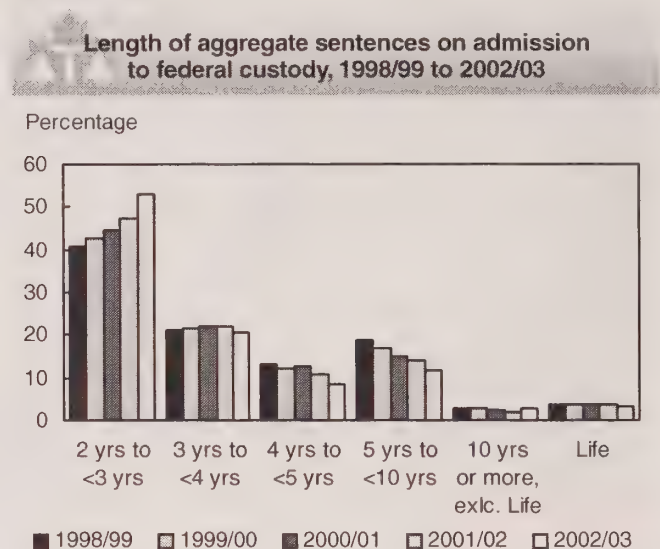


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

In the federal system, shorter sentences of two to three years are the most prevalent, and their frequency has increased substantially in the last five years (Figure 6). The proportion of offenders admitted to federal custody on sentences of two to three years rose from 41% in 1998/99 to 53% in 2002/03. Admissions with sentences of three to four years have remained relatively consistent, while the percentage of offenders sentenced to four to five years has decreased from 13% to 9% and those admitted with sentences of five to ten years in

duration has dropped from 19% to 12%. Admissions with sentences of 10 years or more, including life sentences, continue to represent a very small proportion of all admissions to the federal system.

Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Admissions to community supervision

Community supervision commencements remain stable from 2001/02 to 2002/03

In 2002/03, there were just under 112,000 community supervision program commencements (Text table 5), about the same as in 2001/02¹⁹. Although community supervision has fluctuated over the past decade, the general trend has been upward, increasing 16% over this period (excluding New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, see Text Table 6). Most of the increase took place after 1995/96 with the implementation of conditional sentences.

Three-quarters of admissions in 2002/03 to community supervision were to probation (Figure 7) of which, almost half (48%) were in Ontario (Table 4). The number of admissions to probation showed little change from 2001/02 in most jurisdictions.

In 2002/03, there were approximately 19,200 admissions to programs of conditional sentence, an increase of 3% from 2001/02 and 33% from 1998/99²⁰ (Table 4). Conditional sentences represented 17% (Figure 7) of all community

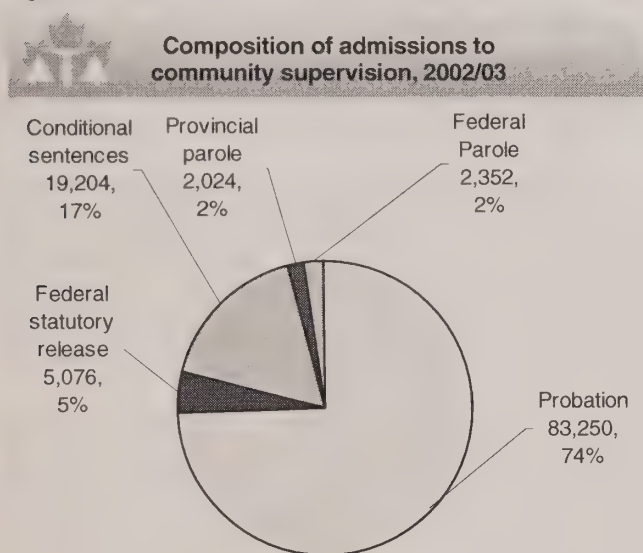
19. Comparisons between 2002/03 and 2001/02 excludes Manitoba while comparisons between 2002/03 and years prior to 2001/02 exclude New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

20. Comparisons between 2002/03 and 2001/02 includes all available data while comparisons between 2002/03 and years prior to 2001/02 exclude Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

supervision admissions in 2002/03, compared to 14% in 1998/99. For the second year in a row, the increase in admissions to conditional sentence was not accompanied by a decrease in provincial/territorial sentenced custody admissions.

Increases in conditional sentence admissions from 2001/02 occurred in Nunavut (44%), Ontario (11%) and Saskatchewan (8%), while decreases occurred in New Brunswick (10%) and Alberta (8%). After experiencing large increases in all jurisdictions following the implementation of conditional sentences, the number of admissions overall grew more slowly between 2001/02 and 2002/03.

Figure 7



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Length of probation terms increasing

In 2002/03, 15% of probation terms were for more than 2 years²¹, up from 7% in 1999/00. At the same time, probation lengths of less than one year decreased from 20% to 15%. Much of this trend was driven by the increase in the proportion of admissions in Ontario with probation orders of more than two years, which increased from 8% in 1999/00 to 20% in 2002/03.

Almost half of probation intakes admitted with violent offences

Among the nine²² jurisdictions reporting most serious offence, the proportion of probation commencements admitted with violent offences rose to 47% in 2002/03, up from 42% in 2000/01 (Table 5). In 2002/03, the proportion of probation admissions admitted with violent offenders ranged from 32% in Quebec to 54% in Ontario. Property crime admissions accounted for 25% of all probation intakes in 2002/03, a decrease since 2001/02 (26%) and 2000/01 (31%). There was substantial variation in offence profiles of probation intakes

per jurisdiction; for example, Prince Edward Island had by far the largest proportion of probation commencements with impaired driving convictions (18%), while probation intakes with drug offences were most common in Quebec (11%).

Community release

Use of parole decreasing

For federal offenders, three types of conditional release are available: day parole, full parole and statutory release²³. Offenders serving determinate sentences (i.e., not life or indeterminate sentences²⁴) are eligible for full parole after serving one-third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less²⁵. Eligibility for day parole is normally six months before full parole eligibility or at one-sixth of the sentence for cases that meet the accelerated parole review criteria²⁶. Day parole and full parole are types of conditional release granted by the National Parole Board (NPB). Offenders on day parole participate in community-based activities in preparation for full parole or statutory release and the conditions of day parole require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night, unless otherwise authorized. Full parole is a type of conditional release granted by the National Parole Board in which the remainder of the sentence is served under supervision in the community²⁷. Statutory release refers to a conditional release that is subject to supervision after the offender has served two-thirds of the sentence. Offenders on statutory release are released by law and not at the discretion of the NPB. The Board however, can impose conditions on the release. Normally, all offenders are released on statutory release unless the release is waived by the offender or an offender is detained²⁸.

In the provincial system, provincial parole boards operate in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. In other jurisdictions, provincial offenders apply to the National Parole Board who makes decisions regarding parole (e.g., day parole or full parole). While statutory release does not apply to offenders sentenced to less than two years, provincial/territorial offenders are generally released on remission after two-thirds of their sentence has been served.

21. Although a particular probation order may not exceed three years according to the criminal code, some offenders may be bound by more than one probation order where the aggregate total exceeds three years.

22. New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta and Northwest Territories were unable to report most serious offence in 2002/03. Prince Edward Island did not provide this data previous to 2002/03, and Nunavut was unable to provide prior to 2001/02.

23. Statutory release is not available to offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences.

24. Offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences (e.g., offenders designated as dangerous offenders) have their eligibility for day parole and full parole determined at sentencing or by legislation. Please see the Canadian Criminal Code for more information.

25. Corrections and Conditional Release Act, 1992, c. 20, section 120.

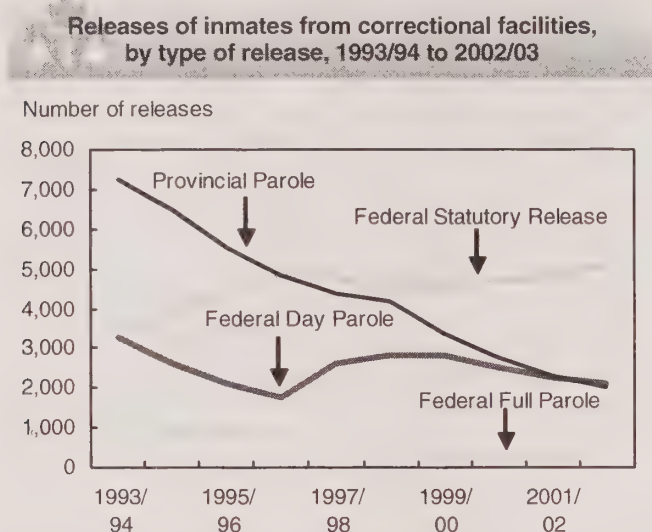
26. Corrections and Conditional Release Act, 1992, c. 20, sections 119 and 119.1.

27. Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, Solicitor General Canada, 2003, p. 69.

28. According to the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (sections 129 to 130), an offender entitled to statutory release after serving two-thirds of the sentence may be held in custody until warrant expiry if it is established that the offender is likely to commit, before the expiry of sentence, an offence causing death or serious harm, a serious drug offence or a sex offence involving a child.

Overall, the number of releases from provincial and federal facilities on discretionary community release, such as full parole and day parole, has decreased substantially over the last ten years (Figure 8). The number of provincial parole releases (i.e., granted by provincial parole boards) decreased 72% from 1993/94 (7,241) to 2002/03 (2,024), 51% since 1998/99 (4,169), and 11% since 2001/02 (2,301).

Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

The number of federal releases from facilities on day parole and full parole has also decreased. In total, in 2002/03 there were 2,123 day parole releases. Day parole releases have declined 35% since 1993/94 (3,289) and 6% since 2001/02 (2,248) (Figure 8). Although generally less common than day parole, the number of federal full parole releases has also decreased in 2002/03 (229); declining 82% since 1993/94 (1,284) and 11% since 2001/02 (257). These figures do not include day parole supervision periods that are continued or graduations from day parole to statutory release or day parole to full parole. This is only information on federal releases directly from institutions. While day parole and full parole releases have been decreasing, the number of statutory releases has increased. In 2002/03 there were slightly over 5,000 statutory releases compared to approximately 3,400 in 1993/94 and more than 4,800 in 2001/02. The number of statutory releases with residency conditions attached at pre-release have remained stable from 1998/99 to 2001/02 varying between 840 and 890 residency conditions imposed, and rose to approximately 1,151 in 2002/03, an increase of 34% since 2001/02 (857)²⁹. Furthermore, 23% of the offenders released on statutory release in 2002/03 had a residency condition imposed, up 5% from 2001/02 (National Parole Board, 2003).

In 2002/03, 3% of federal releases were full parole, 29% were day parole and 68% were statutory release (see Figure 8). Proportionally, full parole release has been consistently declining since 1993/94, from 16% to 3% in 2002/03. The

percentage of day parole releases decreased from 1993/94 (41%) to 1996/97 (23%), rose again until 1999/00 (37%), and declined thereafter. In contrast, statutory release proportions increased from 1993/94 (43%) to 1996/97 (65%), declined until 1998/99 (58%), and has been increasing ever since, reaching a ten-year peak of 68% in 2002/03.

Applications for day parole and full parole down

The decrease in full parole and day parole releases are reflected in the number of applications to day and full parole, for both federal and provincial offenders (Text table 8). Full parole applications to the Quebec parole board decreased 33% from 1998/99 to 2002/03 while applications to the Ontario parole board decreased 62%³⁰. Grant rates in both jurisdictions also declined resulting in a 54% decrease in applications granted in Quebec and a 67% decrease in granted applications in Ontario. As well, Ontario ceased the use of halfway houses for accommodating offenders on full parole, thereby placing additional constraints on the release of offenders on provincial parole.

The number of applications to the National Parole Board for day parole and full parole for federal and provincial offenders also decreased. For provincial offenders, applications for day parole decreased 30% from 410 in 1998/99 to 285 in 2002/03 while applications to full parole dropped from 706 to 439, a 38% decrease. Grant rates for full parole among provincial offenders declined from 1998/99 (62%) to 2002/03 (57%) while the day parole grant rate showed variation over time.

Applications to day parole among federal offenders decreased 17% (from 5,101 to 4,229) as did applications to full parole (-27%, from over 4,800 to approximately 3,500). Although the grant rate for full parole remained stable at approximately 43% over the previous five years, the grant rate for federal offenders applying for day parole showed a slight decrease since 1998/99 (74% to 71%). Therefore, in general, decreases in total applications to day parole and full parole appear to account for the overall decrease in the number of releases from federal custody to day or full parole, more so than the rate at which applications were granted. This appears to be due to a decline in the total federal offender population as well as a decrease in the number of graduations from day parole and full parole and to an increasing number of offenders who waive or withdraw parole applications³¹.

Although the number of releases per year on day parole and full parole has decreased, the outcome of day parole and full parole has not shown substantial change over the past five years. The current outcome rates are consistent with previous years' rates (Text table 9). For provincial offenders, approximately three-quarters of all day parole and full parole releases were completed without revocation due to a breach or a new offence. For federal inmates, rates of completion without

29. This increase can be explained, in part, by a 31.4% increase in the number of residency conditions on statutory release recommended by the Correctional Service of Canada in 2002/03 (National Parole Board, 2003).

30. Although information on the number of offenders released on provincial parole in British Columbia is available, the number of applications and grant rates are not available.

31. The National Parole Board, 2003. 'Performance Monitoring Report 2002-2003'. Performance Measurement Division, National Parole Board.

Grant rates for full and day parole, 1998/99 to 2002/03

		Day parole			Full parole		
		Total applications	Applications granted	Grant rate	Total applications	Applications granted	Grant rate
		number		%	number		%
National parole board							
Federal offenders	1998/99	5,101 ^r	3,801 ^r	74.5	4,850 ^r	2,116 ^r	43.6
	1999/00	5,307 ^r	3,840 ^r	72.4 ^r	4,991 ^r	2,168	43.4 ^r
	2000/01	4,812 ^r	3,459 ^r	71.9	4,278 ^r	1,814 ^r	42.4 ^r
	2001/02	4,427	3,170	71.6	3,841 ^r	1,659 ^r	43.2
	2002/03	4,229	3,024	71.5	3,527	1,502	42.6
Provincial offenders	1998/99	410 ^r	265	64.6	706 ^r	441 ^r	62.5 ^r
	1999/00	374 ^r	283 ^r	75.7 ^r	688 ^r	419 ^r	60.9 ^r
	2000/01	310 ^r	218 ^r	70.3 ^r	571 ^r	342 ^r	59.9 ^r
	2001/02	287 ^r	184 ^r	64.1 ^r	462 ^r	260 ^r	56.3 ^r
	2002/03	285	200	70.2	439	251	57.2
Provincial parole boards¹							
Quebec	1998/99	.	.	.	3,948 ^r	2,728	69.1
	1999/00	.	.	.	3,553	2,333	65.7
	2000/01	.	.	.	3,115	1,731	55.6
	2001/02	.	.	.	2,757	1,323	48.0
	2002/03	.	.	.	2,661	1,267	47.6
Ontario	1998/99	.	.	.	3,341	1,085	33.1
	1999/00	.	.	.	2,523	702	27.8
	2000/01	.	.	.	2,125	584	27.5
	2001/02	.	.	.	1,802	511	28.4
	2002/03	.	.	.	1,265	361	28.5

. not available for any reference period

^r revised

1. Since no data were available for 1998/99 to 2002/03 for British Columbia, all data was excluded from this table.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

revocation were highest for day parole (83%) followed by full parole (73%) and statutory release (58%). For all types of releases, revoked federal offenders were most likely to have their release revoked due to a breach of condition (13% to 30% of all releases). Among federal offenders, the rates of revocation with a reconviction for a non-violent offence ranged from 4% for all day parole releases to 10% of all statutory releases while revocation with reconviction for a violent offence rates ranged from 1% for day parole releases to 3% for statutory releases.

Characteristics of offenders admitted to correctional services

Offenders admitted to sentenced custody, probation and conditional sentences are most often male and in their early thirties

The majority of offenders admitted to sentenced custody are male. In 2002/03, women represented 10% of provincial/territorial admissions and 5% of federal admissions³² (Text table 10). The proportion of females admitted to provincial/territorial and federal custody has remained stable since

1998/99. Among provinces and territories in 2002/03, the largest proportion of females admitted to sentenced custody was in Alberta (12%).

In general, females represented a larger proportion of probation and conditional sentence admissions than sentenced custody admissions. Overall, 17% of probation intakes were female, with the proportion ranging from 12% in Quebec and Nunavut to 19% in Saskatchewan. Females also represented 17% of conditional sentence admissions, with their representation ranging from 12% in Quebec and Nunavut to 46% in Prince Edward Island.

Inmates are typically in their early thirties at the time of admission to sentenced custody. The median³³ ranged from 29 years in Saskatchewan to 35 in Quebec, among reporting jurisdictions. In the federal system, the median age at admission was 32. However, the current age of offenders has been increasing in the federal system (Solicitor General of

32. See Text Box 6 for more detailed information of women in federal prisons.

33. The median age is the age where, if all the inmates are ordered by age, half the inmates are younger and half are older.

Text Table 9

Parole outcomes,¹ 2002/03

	Total completions	Completion without revocation		Completion with revocation		Reason for revocation		
		number	% of total cases	number	% of total cases	Breach of condition	Convicted of a non-violent offence	Convicted of a violent offence
							% of total cases	
Day parole								
Federal inmates—NPB	3,047	2,524	83	523	17	13	4	1
Provincial/territorial inmates—NPB	202	145	72	57	28	26	1	0 ^s
Full parole								
Federal inmates—NPB ²	1,598	1,161	73	437	27	17	9	1
Provincial/territorial inmates—NPB	238	173	73	65	27	26	1	0 ^s
Provincial parole board releases ³	2,111	1,631	77	474	22	..	..	..
Statutory release								
Federal inmates—NPB ²	5,439	3,138	58	2,301	42	30	10	3

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

.. not available for a specific reference period

^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Outcomes represent only those for which the conditional release was completed during 2002/03.

2. Outcomes are only for federal offenders serving determinate sentences.

3. Total includes six terminations for other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Canada, 2003). That is, offenders with long term, life and other indeterminate sentences are aging while in custody thereby contributing to an aging population in federal custody where such long term offenders are being housed. Similar to sentenced custody, the median age of probation intakes among reporting jurisdictions ranged from 29 in Saskatchewan to 32 in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario, while the median age of conditional sentence admissions ranged from 29 in Manitoba to 34 in Quebec and Ontario. In general, the median age of admissions to sentenced custody, probation and conditional sentences tended to be youngest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and oldest in Quebec and Ontario.

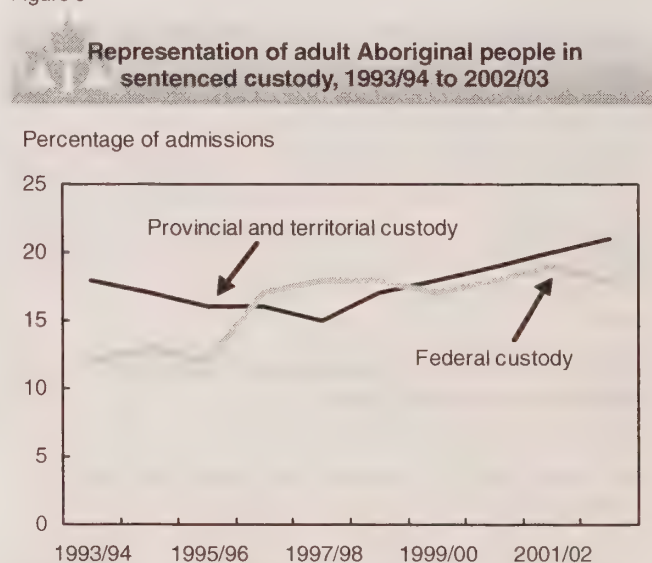
Aboriginal over-representation in provincial/territorial custody continues to rise

In 2002/03, Aboriginal people accounted for 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 18% of federal custody admissions, 14% of probation intakes and 17% of conditional sentence admissions. Overall, Aboriginal people represented 3% of the total Canadian adult population in 2001.

The proportion of sentenced admissions to custody represented by Aboriginal people increased from 20% in 2001/02 to 21% in 2002/03 in the provincial/territorial system and showed a slight decrease in the federal system from 19% in 2001/02 to 18% (Figure 9). The proportion of admissions to sentenced provincial/territorial custody has consistently risen

each year since its low of 15% in 1997/98. The largest increases in proportions from 1997/98 to 2002/03 were in Saskatchewan (72% to 78%) and Manitoba (61% to 68%).

Figure 9



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text Table 10

Characteristics of adult offenders admitted to correctional services, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody			Probation			Conditional sentence			Total adult population 2001
	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Aboriginal
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	..	31	18	..	32	22	..	33	3
Prince Edward Island	9	3	..	13	..	..	46	..	..	1
Nova Scotia	6	6	31	18	6	32	15	7	32	2
New Brunswick	7	7	..	16	8	..	18	10	..	2
Quebec	10	2	35	12	7	32	12	6	34	1
Ontario	9	9	33	17	6	32	20	9	34	1
Manitoba	7	68	30	18	46	30	17	43	29	11
Saskatchewan	10	78	29	19	65	29	18	71	30	10
Alberta	12	39	31	18	21	..	21	15	..	4
British Columbia	8	20	31	17	20	31	16	16	33	4
Yukon	8	76	31	18	60	31	21	70	33	20
Northwest Territories	7	83	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Nunavut	0	98	..	12	90	..	12	..	..	78
Provincial/territorial total	10	21	...	17	14	...	17	17	...	...
Federal total	5	18	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The median age at admission is the age where, if all the people are ordered by age, half of the people are younger and half are older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Census.

Aboriginal people are over-represented in correctional services in all jurisdictions. Jurisdictions with a relatively large proportion of Aboriginal people in the adult population also reported a larger representation of Aboriginal offenders in their sentenced admissions (Text table 10). The largest over-representation of Aboriginal offenders in sentenced custody compared to their representation in the adult population occurred in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia (Text table 10).

Text Box 5 – Correctional facilities

In 2002/03, there were 185 correctional facilities across Canada, of which 68 were under federal jurisdiction: 17 federal community correctional centres with a capacity of 526 spaces and 51 federal institutions with 13,653 spaces, representing approximately 40% of the total institutional capacity in Canada. Federal capacity has remained relatively constant since 1996/97 (13,169). A total operational capacity of 20,377 spaces was reported in 117 provincial and territorial facilities; 101 of which were secure and the remainder (16) were open (minimum security). Since 2001/02, the capacity of correctional facilities – federal and provincial/territorial – has decreased by 2%, with the majority of the decrease occurring in provincial/territorial capacity (from 21,074 to 20,377).

Adult correctional service operational expenditures

Adult correctional service expenditures totalled \$2.7 billion in 2002/03, up 2% from 2001/02 in constant dollars³⁴. In 2000/01, adult corrections accounted for 22% of the \$11 billion spent on policing (61%), courts (9%), legal aid (5%), criminal prosecution (3%) and adult corrections in Canada (Taylor-Butts, 2002). Just over half (53%) of the correctional service expenditures in 2002/03 were in the federal system and 47% in provincial and territorial correctional systems. Overall, custodial services accounted for the largest proportion of expenditures (72%), followed by community supervision services (13%) and headquarters and central services (13%) (Table 6).

Custodial services represented 65% of federal costs and 79% of provincial and territorial costs. Headquarters and central services costs accounted for 21% of federal expenditures, but only 4% of provincial expenditures. In comparison, community supervision services comprised 11% of federal expenditures and 16% of provincial and territorial expenditures.

34. Trends in expenditures must be examined in constant dollars to assure that inflation is taken into account.

Text Box 6 – Women in Federal Prisons

Far fewer women than men come into conflict with the law and their proportion diminishes relative to men's through the various stages of the criminal justice system. In 2002, women accounted for 17% of all adults charged by police, 13% of all 2002/03 cases in criminal court resulting in a decision of guilt, and 9% of those sentenced to custody. In 2002/03 females accounted for 10% (8,009) of the admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody (less than two years) and 5% (212) of new admissions to federal sentenced custody (two years or more).

The federally incarcerated population includes offenders serving relatively long sentences and offenders convicted of the most serious crimes. For example,

- As of April 13, 2003, there were 356 females in federal custody, accounting for 2.8% of the federal custody in-count³⁵.
- As of April 13, 2003, there was a total of 2,772 offenders incarcerated with a life or indeterminate sentence, of which 67 (2.4%) were women³⁶.
- Women offenders with sentence lengths of ten years or more, including those with indeterminate and life sentences constitute approximately 24% of women in federal prisons³⁷.
- The most serious offences for which women were serving a sentence in the federal correctional system (incarcerated, on community supervision, on bail, escaped and unlawfully at large) on April 13, 2003³⁸ were:
 - First degree murder, 2% (compared to 4% of men).
 - Second degree murder, approximately 13% (women and men).
 - Schedule I offence (violent offence excluding murder)³⁹, 39% (compared to 53% of men).
 - Schedule II offence (serious drug offence)⁴⁰, 32% (compared to 15% of men).

In the past ten to fifteen years, federally sentenced women offenders have been the focus of much attention, including a recent systemic review of human rights in correctional services for federally sentenced women⁴¹. Up until the mid-1990's, the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ontario was the only federal facility for women in Canada. These women were incarcerated in a maximum security environment often far from their families and home communities. A Task Force was set up in 1989 to review the situation of federally sentenced women offenders, and a report entitled 'Creating Choices'⁴² was released in April 1990 which, among other things, recommended the closing of the Prison for Women to be replaced with four regional facilities and an Aboriginal Healing Lodge where women-centred programming would be available. The Honourable Louise Arbour subsequently headed up an inquiry into events that took place at the Prison for Women in April 1994 that culminated in a cell extraction and strip search of eight women in segregation by a male Institutional Emergency Response Team⁴³. The report released in April 1996 concluded that fundamental and systematic changes to the correctional system were needed⁴⁴.

The new facilities for women offenders began operating between 1995 and 1997⁴⁵. Minimum and medium security women may serve their sentences in houses that include communal living space in which they are responsible for their daily living needs. Minimum and medium security women with mental health needs and who require more intensive support are housed in Structured Living Environment houses. Around the clock assistance and supervision are provided in these houses by staff with specialized mental health intervention training. After a number of escapes and other incidents, it was determined that a small portion of women offenders required a greater degree of structure and control than the regional facilities could provide. With the exception of Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge, all institutions contain or will contain Secure Units where high-level intervention and supervision is provided by specialized staff. The Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon also contains a unit for women (Churchill unit) which offers a voluntary intensive treatment program for women in an accredited hospital setting. Prior to the opening of the new secure units, maximum-security women were being housed in a separate location from the male population in two men's institutions, and at the Prison for Women in Kingston. On May 8, 2000, the last inmate was transferred from the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ontario.

In addition to the changes that were made to the accommodations for women offenders, changes to the types, availability and content of programming for federally sentenced women offenders has evolved. All programs available to women offenders are offered from a women-centred perspective. In addition to education programs, employment and vocational programs, and various spiritual activities at the regional facilities, the following programs are available: Women Offenders Substance Abuse Program, Sex Offender Therapy for Women, Reasoning and Rehabilitation Program, Anger and Emotions Management Program, Survivors of Abuse and Trauma, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Parenting Skills Program, Mother-Child Program, Community Integration Program, and Aboriginal Programs for Women (i.e., Circles of Change Program, the Family Life Improvement Program, and the Spirit of the Warrior Program)⁴⁶.

These changes to the federal system have resulted in increased costs to incarcerate and care for federally sentenced women offenders. In 2001/02, the average cost of incarcerating a female offender in a federal prison was \$155,589 annually, an increase of 37% since 1998/99 (\$113,610)⁴⁷. In comparison, the cost of incarceration for male inmates in federal prisons in 2001/02 was \$79,538 (Solicitor General Canada, 2003).

35. Correctional Service of Canada – Women Offender Statistical Overview, 2003. December 2003. *Correctional Service of Canada, Women Offender Sector*.

36. Solicitor General of Canada. "Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview". December 2003.

37. Basic Facts about Federal Corrections, 2001 Edition, 2001, *Correctional Service of Canada*.

38. Solicitor General of Canada. "Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview". December 2003.

39. Schedule I is comprised of sexual offences and other violent crimes excluding first and second degree murder (see the Corrections and Conditional Release Act).

40. Schedule II is comprised of serious drug offences, or conspiracy to commit serious drug offences (see the Corrections and Conditional Release Act)

41. Canadian Human Rights Commission. "Protecting Their Rights, A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional Services for Federally Sentenced Women". December 2003. Available: <http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca>.

42. Correctional Service of Canada. "Creating Choices: The Report of the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women". Ottawa, Supply and Services Canada, April 1990. Available: <http://www.csc-ccc.gc.ca/text/prgrm/fsw/choices/toce.shtml>

43. See Canadian Human Rights Commission. "Protecting Their Rights: A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional Services for Federally Sentenced Women", December 2003.

44. Louise Arbour. Commission of Inquiry into Certain Events at the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ottawa, Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1996, at xi. Available at http://www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/publications/corrections/pdf/199681_e.pdf

45. These include the Edmonton Institution for women offenders, Edmonton, Alberta; Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ontario; Joliette Institution in Joliette, Quebec; Nova Institution for Women in Truro, Nova Scotia and the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. In addition, in the Pacific region, a community correctional centre in Abbotsford, British Columbia is currently being converted into a multi-level facility for women offenders (Fraser Valley Institution for Women). Phase I of the conversion opened in March 2004 and Phase II is scheduled to open in 2005.

46. For a description of these programs, please see Background – Women Offenders, January 2004. Available at <http://www.csc-ccc.gc.ca>.

47. Correctional Service of Canada, 2003. 'Departmental Performance Report'. Available at <http://www.csc-ccc.gc.ca>.

In the federal system, an inmate costs Canadians an average of \$234.65 per day in 2002/03. In comparison, on average \$140.97 per day was spent at the provincial/territorial level per inmate. This difference in inmate costs between the federal and provincial territorial system is the result of a number of factors such as the higher level of security required at federal facilities, the high costs of incarceration for federally sentenced female offenders (see Text box 6), and the costs associated with the more extensive provision of treatment programs to offenders serving longer sentences. The average constant dollar daily inmate cost in the provinces and territories increased by 3% since 2001/02, while the federal inmate cost decreased by 2%.

Cost of providing community supervision services increasing at a higher rate than custodial services

Long-term trends of expenditures must be examined in constant dollars⁴⁸ to account for inflation. Long-term trends in the constant dollar costs of provincial/territorial correctional services have been changing in response to changes in the composition of the correctional population. While the overall number of offenders in provincial/territorial custody has remained relatively stable over the past decade, there has been a decline in sentenced custody population while the remand

population has increased. Since remanded individuals are generally housed in maximum security environments, the cost of their incarceration may be higher than for sentenced offenders. Furthermore, the enactment of conditional sentences may have also affected the sentenced custody population and the cost of incarceration by removing lower risk/community-appropriate cases from the caseload, thereby increasing the proportion of higher risk cases in provincial/territorial prisons. Although there has been some variability over time in the average daily offender cost of custodial services, 2002/03 expenditures are the highest recorded in the last ten years in the provincial/territorial prisons (Text table 11). Between 1993/94 to 1996/97, the average daily inmate costs decreased by 4%, while the cost from 1998/99 to 2002/03 increased by 5%.

Although, community supervision is significantly lower in costs than custodial supervision, there have been large increases that have occurred in the costs associated with the provision of these services. From 1993/94 to 1996/97, the cost per supervised offender declined by 7%. In September 1996, conditional sentences were introduced with requirements of

48. Consumer Price Index, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 11

Operating expenditures and average daily cost¹ of persons in provincial/territorial custody and community services, 1993/94 to 2002/03

	Custodial services					Community supervision services				
	Current dollars		Constant 1992/93 dollars			Current dollars		Constant 1992/93 dollars		
	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost		Operating expenditures	Average daily offender cost	Operating expenditures	Average daily offender cost	
	\$'000	\$	\$'000	\$	% change	\$'000	\$	\$'000	\$	% change
1993/94	828,135	116.47	815,897	114.74	...	130,061	3.48	128,139	3.43	...
1994/95	815,896	112.83	800,683	110.73	-3.5	127,853	3.47	125,469	3.40	-0.7
1995/96	808,677	112.29	776,827	107.87	-2.6	125,808	3.38	120,853	3.25	-4.6
1996/97	829,585	116.40	783,367	109.92	1.9	131,273	3.36	123,959	3.17	-2.3
1997/98	852,796 ^r	123.26	794,777 ^r	114.87	4.5	156,668 ^r	3.79	146,009	3.53	11.3
1998/99 ²	852,572 ^r	121.53	787,232 ^r	112.21	...	160,028 ^r	4.00	147,764	3.70	4.7
1999/00	887,330 ^r	130.11	801,563 ^r	117.53	4.7	168,104 ^r	4.12	151,856	3.72	0.6
2000/01	915,812 ^r	133.37	805,463 ^r	117.30	-0.2	182,022 ^r	4.52	160,090	3.97	6.8
2001/02	933,300	132.74	802,493	114.14	-2.7	196,129	4.72	168,641	4.06	2.2
2002/03	1,012,280	140.97	845,681	117.77	3.2	207,908	4.91	173,691	4.10	1.1
% change from 1993/94 to 1996/97 (pre-conditional sentences)	...	...	-4.0	-4.2	...	...	...	-3.3	-7.4	...
% change from 1998/99 to 2002/03 (post-conditional sentences)	...	...	7.4	4.9	...	...	...	17.5	11.0	...

... not applicable
r revised

1. Daily offender cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the 'total days stayed'. 'Total days stayed' is based on average daily (actual-in) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating costs constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.
2. Prior to 1998/99, the institutional operating costs excluded purchased services. Because of this change in methodology, the percentage change in average daily inmate cost between 1997/98 and 1998/99 has not been calculated.

more intensive supervision. Since this time, community corrections caseloads⁴⁹ have increased 8%. Similarly, from 1998/99 to 2002/03 constant dollar, daily offender costs increased by 11%.

Definitions

Adults: Persons aged 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence, or persons under the age of 18 at the time of the offence but who are sentenced as an adult.

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

- 1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.
- 2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Incarceration rate: The daily average number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detentions for every 100,000 adults in Canada.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. In addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long term supervision orders. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders past their statutory release date, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the National Parole Board or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for day parole six months prior to their full parole eligibility date or one-sixth of their sentence for cases that meet accelerated parole review criteria.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the National Parole Board or they waive statutory release.

Long-term supervision order: Disposition that came into effect in Canada on August 1, 1997, in which the court can order that the offender be supervised in the community for a period not exceeding 10 years after having served a custody sentence of two years or more.

Most serious offence:

Most serious offence (MSO) – This measure is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which classifies incidents, according to the most serious offence in the incident. The Adult Correctional Services Survey uses the same rule in determining the most serious offence for which an offender is sentenced. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the most serious offence is recorded.

Most serious disposition (MSD) – If an offender receives more than one conviction, the offence with the longest sentence, as stated in the *Criminal Code*, is the one recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Multiple charge (MC) – If an offender is charged with, and found guilty of more than one offence, all charges will be recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

49. Includes probation and conditional sentences.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on adult correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey, the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) for Newfoundland and Labrador only (see Text box 3). Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP while the ACS Survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under some form of provincial, territorial or federal correctional supervision. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

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Table 1

Population estimates, by province/territory as at July 1st, 1993 to 2002

Province/territory	Adult population									
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	thousands									
Newfoundland and Labrador	427.2	427.0	425.3	423.3	422.2	419.0	419.0	419.8	419.7	420.8
Prince Edward Island	97.0	98.3	99.5	100.8	101.9	102.5	103.7	104.7	105.9	107.3
Nova Scotia	699.9	704.1	706.8	711.1	716.4	720.8	728.1	732.2	736.4	742.0
New Brunswick	565.0	568.8	572.1	575.6	579.4	581.7	586.0	589.1	592.3	595.7
Quebec	5,465.8	5,508.3	5,549.8	5,588.7	5,634.4	5,679.7	5,731.8	5,783.0	5,835.9	5,888.9
Ontario	8,099.7	8,204.2	8,310.4	8,410.7	8,540.4	8,665.8	8,800.7	8,957.5	9,139.7	9,305.2
Manitoba	826.2	831.0	835.7	840.0	843.5	846.6	852.1	857.0	861.3	865.0
Saskatchewan	723.5	726.9	732.6	738.7	743.8	749.1	753.3	754.0	754.0	753.5
Alberta	1,933.4	1,964.8	1,997.1	2,034.4	2,084.6	2,146.0	2,197.0	2,246.0	2,296.6	2,350.7
British Columbia	2,721.4	2,810.1	2,894.8	2,977.2	3,045.3	3,086.0	3,123.8	3,163.4	3,211.6	3,260.2
Yukon	22.0	21.6	22.2	23.1	23.4	23.0	22.8	22.6	22.5	22.6
Northwest Territories	39.9	41.0	42.0	42.7	42.8	42.7	27.8	27.9	28.3	28.7
Nunavut	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.2	15.6	16.1	16.4
Canada	21,621.0	21,906.2	22,188.2	22,466.3	22,778.1	23,062.9	23,361.3	23,672.8	24,020.2	24,356.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Year	Non-sentenced admissions									
		Sentenced admissions		Remand		Temporary detention/other		Total		Total	
		number	% change	number	% change	number	% change	number	% change	number	% change
Total¹	1998/99	93,045	...	104,975	...	12,571	...	117,546	...	210,591	...
	1999/00²	86,885	...	111,392	...	21,563	...	132,955	...	219,840	...
	2000/01	80,928	...	118,566	...	24,901	...	143,467	...	227,279	...
	2001/02	83,065	...	125,801	...	31,475	...	157,276	...	240,341	...
	2002/03	83,885	1.0	130,021	3.4	35,308	12.2	165,329	5.1	249,214	3.7
Newfoundland and Labrador ^{2,3}	1998/99	1,199	...	306	...	5	...	311	...	1,510	...
	1999/00	936	-21.9	263	-14.1	9	80.0	272	-12.5	1,208	-20.0
	2000/01	944	0.9	388	47.5	0	...	388	42.6	1,332	10.3
	2001/02	1,080 ^r	14.4	415 ^r	7.0	83 ^r	...	498 ^r	28.4	1,578 ^r	18.5
	2002/03	1,031	-4.5	426	2.7	104	25.3	530	6.4	1,561	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	1998/99	803	...	134	...	0	...	134	...	937	...
	1999/00	647	-19.4	191	42.5	0	...	191	42.5	838	-10.6
	2000/01	586	-9.4	176	-7.9	0	...	176	-7.9	762	-9.1
	2001/02	650	10.9	178	1.1	0	...	178	1.1	828	8.7
	2002/03	594	-8.6	265	48.9	0	...	265	48.9	859	3.7
Nova Scotia	1998/99	1,964	...	1,399	...	426	...	1,825	...	3,789	...
	1999/00	1,825	-7.1	1,553	11.0	462	8.5	2,015	10.4	3,840	1.3
	2000/01	1,624	-11.0	1,758	13.2	406	-12.1	2,164	7.4	3,788	-1.4
	2001/02	1,507	-7.2	1,881	7.0	467	15.0	2,348	8.5	3,855	1.8
	2002/03	1,376	-8.7	1,156	-38.5	505	8.1	1,661	-29.3	3,037	-21.2
New Brunswick ⁴	1998/99	2,273	...	1,101	...	0	...	1,101	...	3,374	...
	1999/00	2,179	-4.2	1,301	18.2	0	...	1,301	...	3,480	3.1
	2000/01	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	2,884	-17.1
	2001/02	1,555	...	1,337	...	574	...	1,911	...	3,466	20.2
	2002/03	1,458	-6.2	1,279	-4.3	697	21.4	1,976	3.4	3,434	-0.9
Quebec	1998/99	21,735	...	25,342	...	2,714	...	28,056	...	49,791	...
	1999/00	18,016	-17.1	25,814	1.9	2,698	-0.6	28,512	1.6	46,528	-6.6
	2000/01	14,951	-17.0	26,063	1.0	2,897	7.4	28,960	1.6	43,911	-5.6
	2001/02	14,372	-3.9	27,341	4.9	2,984	3.0	30,325	4.7	44,697	1.8
	2002/03	13,423	-6.6	26,588	-2.8	3,069	2.8	29,657	-2.2	43,080	-3.6
Ontario	1998/99	32,815	...	45,351	...	5,151	...	50,502	...	83,317	...
	1999/00	30,747	-6.3	46,637	2.8	5,533	7.4	52,170	3.3	82,917	-0.5
	2000/01	30,999	0.8	52,179	11.9	3,239	-41.5	55,418	6.2	86,417	4.2
	2001/02	31,980	3.2	56,370	8.0	8,257	154.9	64,627	16.6	96,607	11.8
	2002/03	33,050	3.3	58,470	3.7	11,631	40.9	70,101	8.5	103,151	6.8
Manitoba ⁵	1998/99	1,393	...	3,182	...	3,955	...	7,137	...	8,530	...
	1999/00	3,284 ^r	...	6,567	...	4,736	...	11,303	...	14,587	...
	2000/01	2,901	-11.7	6,955	5.9	4,924	4.0	11,879	5.1	14,780	1.3
	2001/02	3,025	4.3	7,625	9.6	5,554	12.8	13,179	10.9	16,204	9.6
	2002/03	3,316	9.6	8,615	13.0	6,083	9.5	14,698	11.5	18,014	11.2
Saskatchewan	1998/99	3,850	...	7,175	...	316	...	7,491	...	11,341	...
	1999/00	3,368	-12.5	8,665	20.8	200	-36.7	8,865	18.3	12,233	7.9
	2000/01	3,219	-4.4	9,548	10.2	222	11.0	9,770	10.2	12,989	6.2
	2001/02	3,410	5.9	10,278	7.6	157	-29.3	10,435	6.8	13,845	6.6
	2002/03	3,576	4.9	11,268	9.6	174	10.8	11,442	9.7	15,018	8.5

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory 1998/99 to 2002/03 – Concluded

Jurisdiction	Year	Non-sentenced admissions									
		Sentenced admissions		Remand		Temporary detention/other		Total		Total	
		number	% change	number	% change	number	% change	number	% change	number	% change
Alberta	1998/99	15,491	...	8,298	...	0	...	8,298	...	23,789	...
	1999/00	14,728	-4.9	7,784	-6.2	0	...	7,784	-6.2	22,512	-5.4
	2000/01	14,859	0.9	8,179	5.1	0	...	8,179	5.1	23,038	2.3
	2001/02	15,164	2.1	8,875	8.5	0	...	8,875	8.5	24,039	4.3
	2002/03	16,190	6.8	9,655	8.8	0	...	9,655	8.8	25,845	7.5
British Columbia ⁶	1998/99	9,628	...	11,076	...	0	...	11,076	...	20,704	...
	1999/00	9,739	1.2	11,602	4.7	7,919	...	19,521	76.2	29,260	41.3
	2000/01	9,520	-2.2	12,185	5.0	13,199	66.7	25,384	30.0	34,904	19.3
	2001/02	9,263	-2.7	10,687	-12.3	13,362	1.2	24,049	-5.3	33,312	-4.6
	2002/03	8,740	-5.6	11,507	7.7	13,030	-2.5	24,537	2.0	33,277	-0.1
Yukon	1998/99	300	...	318	...	4	...	322	...	622	...
	1999/00	308	2.7	321	0.9	6	50.0	327	1.6	635	2.1
	2000/01	294	-4.5	302	-5.9	13	116.7	315	-3.7	609	-4.1
	2001/02	280	-4.8	323	7.0	24	84.6	347	10.2	627	3.0
	2002/03	206	-26.4	327	1.2	13	-45.8	340	-2.0	546	-12.9
Northwest Territories ⁷	1998/99	1,594	...	1,293	...	..	...	1,293	...	2,887	...
	1999/00	1,108	-30.5	694	-46.3	..	...	694	-46.3	1,802	-37.6
	2000/01	802	-27.6	628	-9.5	1	...	629	-9.4	1,431	-20.6
	2001/02	562	-29.9	237	-62.3	13	1,200.0	250	-60.3	812	-43.3
	2002/03	685	21.9	268	13.1	2	-84.6	270	8.0	955	17.6
Nunavut	1998/99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1999/00	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	229	...	205	...	0	...	205	...	434	...
	2001/02	217	-5.2	254	23.9	0	...	254	23.9	471	8.5
	2002/03	240	10.6	197	-22.4	0	...	197	-22.4	437	-7.2

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, interjurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^r revised

1. New Brunswick has been included only in the total due to missing data in the sub-categories. Because of missing data from various jurisdictions, percentage change from total figures is not appropriate. See Text table 5 for these comparisons.

2. Due to Y2K system problems, the data from 1999/00 are estimated.

3. Newfoundland and Labrador - Data commencing in 2001/02 are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

4. Total admission figures for 1998/99 and 1999/00 were reported on a fiscal year basis, while the breakdown was calculated according to the calendar year. The breakdown of admissions was unavailable for 2000/01; for this reason the figures do not add up

5. Given major system development work leading to a change in the source of these data, there are some comparability issues with respect to Manitoba data for 1999/00 against previous years. Accordingly, no percentage variations from 1999/00 to 2000/01 are

6. 'Other/temporary detention' denotes pre-court lock-ups in a correctional facility, which is a new category beginning in 1999/00.

7. Large decreases are due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Adult sentenced admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Unit of Count ¹		Criminal Code				Total	Other federal statutes ²		Total	Other ³
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired Driving	Other Criminal Code		Drug offences	Other		
		number					%				
Provincial and territorial											
Newfoundland and Labrador	MSO	1,031	24	27	13	25	89	0	9	9	2
Prince Edward Island	MSO	594	19	13	52	13	96	2	0 ^s	2	2
Nova Scotia	MSO	1,376	7	27	12	42	88	6	3	9	3
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	MSO	13,423	5	11	13	11	41	6	0 ^s	6	53
Ontario	MSO	33,050	32	25	6	29	91	8	1	8	1
Manitoba	MSO	3,316	55	17	7	14	93	1	4	6	1
Saskatchewan	MSO	3,576	31	19	13	30	93	0 ^s	3	3	4
Alberta	MC	48,661	8	22	3	37	70	3	1	4	26
British Columbia	MSD	8,740	13	29	3	35	80	6	7	13	7
Yukon	MSO	206	27	24	7	37	95	4	0	4	1
Northwest Territories	MC	1,262	31	16	8	37	92	3	0	3	5
Nunavut	MSO	240	73	11	1	12	97	3	0	3	1
Federal	MSO	4,244	54	18	2	11	85	14	0 ^s	14	0 ^s

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

.. figures not available for specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. MSO = most serious offence

MSD = most serious disposition

MC = multiple charge

Alberta and Northwest Territories classify program commencements using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge.

2. Includes the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and other federal statutes.

3. Includes provincial and territorial statutes and municipal by-laws.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 1998/99 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹	1998/99	300	...	1,903	...
	1999/00	310	3.3	1,811	-4.8
	2000/01	319	2.9	1,906	5.2
	2001/02	321	0.6	1,786	-6.3
	2002/03	308	-4.0	1,726	-3.4
Prince Edward Island	1998/99	35	...	564	...
	1999/00	50	42.9	592	5.0
	2000/01	40	-20.0	533	-10.0
	2001/02	40	0.0	563	5.6
	2002/03	37	-7.5	541	-3.9
Nova Scotia	1998/99	510	...	3,719	...
	1999/00	628	23.1	3,791	1.9
	2000/01	623	-0.8	3,653	-3.6
	2001/02	614	-1.4	3,547	-2.9
	2002/03	626	2.0	3,728	5.1
New Brunswick	1998/99	507	...	1,740	...
	1999/00	499	-1.6	1,429	-17.9
	2000/01	682	36.7	1,733	21.3
	2001/02	667	-2.2	1,830	5.6
	2002/03	602	-9.7	1,764	-3.6
Quebec	1998/99	4,202	...	6,877	...
	1999/00	4,557	8.4	7,098	3.2
	2000/01	4,259	-6.5	7,704	8.5
	2001/02	4,670	9.7	8,277	7.4
	2002/03	4,941	5.8	8,280	0.0
Ontario	1998/99	3,690	...	34,469	...
	1999/00	4,271	15.7	33,432	-3.0
	2000/01	4,211	-1.4	34,920	4.5
	2001/02	4,416	4.9	38,236	9.5
	2002/03	4,920	11.4	39,778	4.0
Manitoba ²	1998/99	672	...	4,426	...
	1999/00	584	-13.1	..	..
	2000/01	705	20.7	6,811	..
	2001/02	766	8.7	5,219	...
	2002/03	798	4.2	3,501	...
Saskatchewan	1998/99	1,083	...	3,305	...
	1999/00	1,243	14.8	3,242	-1.9
	2000/01	1,365	9.8	3,457	6.6
	2001/02	1,344	-1.5	3,402	-1.6
	2002/03	1,453	8.1	3,434	0.9
Alberta	1998/99	1,035	...	8,544	...
	1999/00	1,120	8.2	8,706	1.9
	2000/01	1,558	39.1	9,360	7.5
	2001/02	1,731	11.1	9,438	0.8
	2002/03	1,590	-8.1	8,821	-6.5
British Columbia	1998/99	2,142	...	12,805	...
	1999/00	2,439	13.9	12,283	-4.1
	2000/01	3,226	32.3	11,509	-6.3
	2001/02	3,712	15.1	11,067	-3.8
	2002/03	3,545	-4.5	10,429	-5.8

Table 4

Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 1998/99 to 2002/03 – Concluded

Jurisdiction		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Yukon	1998/99	60	...	467	...
	1999/00	91	51.7	405	-13.3
	2000/01	96	5.5	353	-12.8
	2001/02	104	8.3	338	-4.2
	2002/03	99	-4.8	363	7.4
Northwest Territories	1998/99	..	...	..	...
	1999/00	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	..	...	..	...
	2001/02	..	...	..	...
	2002/03	..	...	..	...
Nunavut	1998/99	...	...	...	...
	1999/00	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	..	...	..	...
	2001/02	198	...	801	...
	2002/03	285	43.9	885	10.5
Provincial/Territorial total (includes all data)	1998/99	14,236	...	78,819	...
	1999/00	15,792	...	72,789	...
	2000/01	17,084	...	81,939	...
	2001/02	18,583 ^r	...	84,504 ^r	...
	2002/03	19,204	3.3	83,250	...
Provincial/Territorial total ³ (excludes jurisdictions with missing data)	1998/99	14,236	...	74,393	...
	1999/00	15,792	10.9	72,789	-2.2
	2000/01	17,084	8.2	75,128	3.2
	2001/02	18,385	7.6	78,484	4.5
	2002/03	18,919	2.9	78,864	0.5

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Newfoundland and Labrador - Data commencing in 2001/02 are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

2. While probation admissions for 2001/02 and 2002/03 have decreased from 2000/01 levels, some of the decrease can be attributed to the implementation in 1999/00 of a new information system (COMS).

3. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the probation totals due to missing data in some years, and Nunavut has been excluded from the conditional sentences total for 2001/02 and 2002/03.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2000/01 to 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Year	Total probation admissions	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
		number			%			%	%
Newfoundland and Labrador ^{1,2}	2000/01	1,906	37	33	5	19	5	1	1
	2001/02	1,786 ^r	37 ^r	28 ^r	7 ^r	21 ^r	0 ^{s,r}	7 ^r	1 ^r
	2002/03	1,726	36	29	7	21	0 ^s	5	2
Prince Edward Island	2000/01	533	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	563	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	541	36	26	18	18	1	0	0
Nova Scotia	2000/01	3,653	34	24	6	29	6	1	0
	2001/02	3,547	35	23	7	28	7	1	0
	2002/03	3,728	35	23	7	29	6	1	0
New Brunswick ³	2000/01	1,733	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	1,830	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	1,764	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	2000/01	7,704	30	37	4	18	11	0 ^s	0
	2001/02	8,277	31	35	4	18	11	1	0
	2002/03	8,280	32	34	4	19	11	0 ^s	0
Ontário	2000/01	34,920	45	31	6	12	6	0 ^s	1
	2001/02	38,236	53	23	5	12	6	0 ^s	1
	2002/03	39,778	54	23	5	16	2	0 ^s	0
Manitoba ⁴	2000/01	6,811	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	5,219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	3,501	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	2000/01	3,457	49	25	7	14	0 ^s	5	0
	2001/02	3,402	50	24	7	13	0 ^s	6	0
	2002/03	3,434	52	26	8	14	0 ^s	0	0
Alberta	2000/01	9,360	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	9,438	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	8,821	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
British Columbia	2000/01	11,509	40	32	4	14	8	0 ^s	1
	2001/02	11,067	40	33	3	14	8	0 ^s	1
	2002/03	10,429	40	34	3	14	8	0 ^s	1
Yukon ¹	2000/01	353	32	21	7	33	4	0 ^s	4
	2001/02	338	33	15	5	41	3	0	3
	2002/03	363	50	14	7	23	5	0	1
Northwest Territories	2000/01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	2000/01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	801	51	22	1	20	4	0	2
	2002/03	885	51	12	1	30	4	0	1
Total	2000/01	81,939	42	31	5	14	6	1	1
	2001/02	84,504	46	26	5	14	6	1	1
	2002/03	83,250	47	25	5	17	4	0 ^s	0

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded^r revised

1. Offences are reported as multiple charges rather than most serious offence.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador - Data commencing in 2001/02 are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

3. Offence data unavailable due to a changeover to a new case management system.

4. Offence data unavailable due to major system development work.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 6

Operating expenditures of the adult correctional system, 2002/03

Jurisdiction	Current dollars								Total	Per capita cost ⁴
	Custodial services		Community supervision services		Headquarters and central services		NPB or provincial parole boards ³			
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%		
Federal expenditures ¹	942,708	65.1	160,300	11.1	309,447	21.4	36,500	2.5	1,448,955	46.12
Provincial and territorial expenditures ²	1,012,280	79.0	207,908	16.2	54,741	4.3	6,441	0.5	1,281,369	40.79
Total expenditures	1,954,988	71.6	368,208	13.5	364,188	13.3	42,941	1.6	2,730,324	86.91

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

1. Federal expenditures include Correctional Service Canada and National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

2. Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

3. Provincial parole boards operate in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

4. Per capita cost is total cost of correctional services divided by the total Canadian population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2002-2003; Public Accounts of Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03

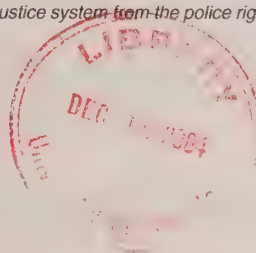
by Rebecca Kong

Highlights¹

- In the year ending March 31, 2003, there were 606 victim service agencies and 9 criminal injuries compensation programs that were eligible to respond to Statistics Canada's Victim Services Survey. The majority of victim service agencies were police-based (41%), followed by community-based agencies (19%), sexual assault centres (17%), court-based agencies (10%), system-based agencies² (8%) and other types of agencies (includes hospital-based domestic violence and sexual assault treatment programs and agencies that fall into more than one category) (3%). The remaining 1% comprised criminal injuries compensation programs. Survey responses were received from 81% (484 services and 8 criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit programs).
- In 2002/03, almost 360,000 clients were assisted by the 412 victim service agencies that reported annual counts. About one in eight agencies (13%) was unable to provide annual counts of clients served (and 2% did not respond to the question).
- Based on a snapshot of almost 4,400 clients assisted on October 22, 2003, the vast majority were victims of a crime against the person (78%) and female (77%). While 3% of clients were victims of criminal harassment, 5% were secondary victims of homicide and other crimes resulting in the loss of life, 30% were victims of sexual assault, 41% were victims of other types of violent crime and the remaining 22% had experienced other types of incidents, including property and traffic offences.
- Almost half (47%) of clients served by an agency other than a police-, system- or court-based agency on October 22, 2003 had reported their incident to the police, 30% had not reported to the police and reporting was unknown for 22% of clients.
- The vast majority of agencies reported providing the following types of services: general information (offered by 95% of agencies), emotional support (95%); liaising with other agencies on behalf of the client (85%); providing court information (85%); providing information on the structure and process of the criminal justice system (85%); providing public education (85%); immediate safety planning (85%); court accompaniment (82%), and; assistance with victim impact statements (81%).
- Most agencies (57%) reported having one or more programs dedicated to specific populations. Agencies most frequently reported having programs dedicated to children (41% of agencies) and adult women (37%). One-quarter of agencies offered programs specifically for Aboriginal people, 19% for persons with physical disabilities, 19% for persons with mental challenges, and 13% for ethno-cultural or visible minority groups.
- 444 agencies (92%) reported the equivalent of 1,448 paid full-time staff having worked in 2002/03. Five percent of agencies had no paid staff and relied solely on volunteers (and 3% did not respond to the question).
- 367 agencies (76%) reported a total of 9,616 volunteers (19% did not use volunteers and 5% did not respond to the question). The number of hours worked by volunteers that year is equivalent to 1,107 full-time volunteers.

1. Unless otherwise specified, analysis of service agencies and clients in this Juristat excludes criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit programs because these latter agencies completed questions specific to their type of agency.

2. Services under this model assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery.



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Introduction

In Canada, there have been several changes to legislation, policies and procedures over the past three decades to respond to the needs of victims of crime. In 1983, the Federal-Provincial Task Force on Justice for Victims of Crime released its report on issues faced by victims of crime, particularly regarding their role in the criminal justice process. Issues for victims included, for example, the absence of the victim's voice in the criminal justice process, the traumatizing experience of court proceedings, and the lack of information about the perpetrator's status and whereabouts (Federal-Provincial Task Force on Justice for Victims of Crime, 1983). Since then, governments have implemented several changes to respond to these concerns, such as amending federal legislation to provide victims the opportunity to prepare victim impact statements and the right to receive information (see Boxes 1 and 5; Department of Justice, n.d.). In addition to changes to legislation, policies and procedures, new types of services for victims of crime, such as police-based and court-based services, have emerged to join long-standing services such as sexual assault centres and shelters for battered women that grew from grassroots movements in the 1970's.

While victims' concerns have received attention over the last three decades and governments have implemented measures to address these concerns, little is known about the services available to victims and those who use them. To date, the only source of national data on services for victims of crime has been Statistics Canada's Transition Home Survey that collects information on residential services for abused women and their children (see Box 4). To address the lack of information in this area, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), through funding from Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues, conducted for the first time a national voluntary survey of various types of victim services in 2003. The objective of the Victim Services Survey is to provide a profile of service agencies, including the services offered, and some insight into the clients who use them. This *Juristat* presents the findings from this survey and, where relevant, integrates other empirical information such as victimization, police-reported and Census data.

Box 1 – Victim's rights in Canada¹: A brief overview of major changes

The creation of compensation schemes for victims of crime was the first form of legislated action to address victim needs. In 1967, Saskatchewan enacted the first legislated compensation scheme and by 1988, all provinces had enacted victims' compensation schemes. Today, all jurisdictions, except Newfoundland and Labrador and the three territories, have compensation schemes for victims of crime, although they vary in terms of criteria and expenses and damages for which they will compensate.

In 1988, there was a wave of changes and initiatives in relation to victims' rights. That year, the *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime* was endorsed by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice. The intention of these basic principles was to promote the fair treatment of victims, particularly during the criminal justice process, and to provide guidance for federal, provincial and territorial laws, policies and procedures. In 2003, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice endorsed a new *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime* that modernized the 1988 statement (Department of Justice, 2003). Some notable changes to the statement include: more specific principles regarding the different types of information victims require; updated language that reflects developments in victim rights in Canada since 1988, and; the removal of a statement suggesting victims are obliged to report their victimization and co-operate with law enforcement authorities.

The passage of Bill C-89 (*An Act to Amend the Criminal Code: Victims of Crime*) in 1988 encompassed a number of amendments in relation to the victim's role in the criminal justice system, including the introduction of victim impact statements to the Canadian criminal justice system. The victim impact statement describes the harm done to or loss suffered by the victim of the offence. Since then, legislation on victim impact statements has continued to develop. For instance, in 1995, sentencing provisions under the *Criminal Code* (section 722) were amended to require the court to consider a victim impact statement at the time of sentencing an offender where such a statement has been prepared. In 1999, further amendments were made. As a result of these changes, judges are required to inquire whether or not the victim has been informed of their right to complete a victim impact statement and, where the victim has not been informed, the judge can adjourn proceedings

¹ For more information, see Department of Justice n.d. *The Policy Centre for Victim Issues. "Legislation."* <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/index.html>.

Continued on page 3

to allow time for statement preparation. In addition, victims have the option of delivering the statement orally or in writing. Finally, in accordance with section 745.63 of the *Criminal Code*, information provided by victims is permitted at hearings for offenders serving life sentences who are seeking a reduction in the number of years they need to serve before being eligible to apply for parole.

In 1988, victim surcharges became a part of Canada's sentencing law. A victim surcharge is imposed in addition to any other punishment for an offender convicted or discharged of a *Criminal Code* offence or an offence under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Presently, a victim surcharge is 15% of a fine imposed and where no fine is imposed, the surcharge is \$50 for summary offence convictions and \$100 for indictable offence convictions. Section 737 of the *Criminal Code* states that the funds are to be used for victim assistance by the province or territory in which they are collected. In addition, some provinces and territories have their own surcharge legislation that applies to infractions of provincial and territorial laws.

Following revisions in 1983 and 1988 to the *Criminal Code* sections dealing with sexual offences, the 1990's saw a number of changes to procedural and evidentiary rules intended to facilitate the provision of testimony during court proceedings for sexual offences and other specified offences. Examples of current provisions include: protecting the victim's private and confidential records from use in court; banning the publication of the name and identity of victims and witnesses; under certain circumstances, permitting victims under the age of 18 and victims who have difficulty communicating due to a disability to provide testimony from behind a screen or by closed-circuit television.

Box 2 – Victims' use of helping agencies

In general, the role of victim services is to assist victims with the consequences of crime, such as emotional and physical injury and financial loss, to help victims through the criminal justice process and to assist in preventing future victimizations (Canadian Federal Provincial Task Force on Justice for Victims of Crime, 1983). Despite this critical role, data from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization show that less than four in ten victims reported their incident to the police. In addition, results suggest that few victims made use of formal helping agencies, although use of services was more frequent among victims of spousal violence. It should be noted, however, that victim services also provide assistance to populations that are not measured by the GSS, such as secondary victims of crime (e.g. families, friends and communities who were not the actual victim of the offence, but were affected nevertheless), victims of offences not measured by the GSS (e.g. impaired driving) and children and youth less than 15 years old.

According to the 1999 GSS on Victimization, in almost 175,000 (9%) of the non-spousal violent incidents measured by the survey, the victim contacted or used a social service such as a crisis centre or crisis line, a counselor, a community or family centre, a women's centre, a men's centre or support group, and a police-based and/or court-based victim service agency. Police and court-based victim services provide assistance to those who report their incident to the police. According to the 1999 GSS on Victimization, 37% of the 6.5 million personal and household victimizations¹ experienced by respondents that year were reported to the police (Besserer et al, 2001). Reporting rates were lower for violent than non-violent incidents. In the vast majority of the violent incidents measured by the 1999 GSS that were reported to police, victims did not contact or use a police or court-based service (93%).²

Victims of spousal violence were more likely to use a social service. Among those who were assaulted by a spouse in the five years prior to the survey, 48% of women and 17% of men used a social service. Among all victims of spousal violence, the most frequently used service was a counselor or psychologist (28%), followed by a crisis center or crisis line (10%) and community center or family center (10%). Further, transition homes were used by 11% of female victims of spousal assault while 2% of male victims reported using a men's centre or support group.

1. The GSS measures eight specific crime types: assault, sexual assault, robbery, theft of personal property, breaking and entering, theft of motor vehicles and/or parts, theft of household property and vandalism.
2. The number who did contact or use these services is too small to be expressed.

The Victim Services Survey

The Victim Services Survey was intended to be a census of system-based³, police-based and court-based victim services, sexual assault centres and financial benefit programs for victims of crime. Also included were selected community-based services (Box 3). As the range of community-based services can be very broad, the scope of community-based services was limited to those that provided assistance to victims of crime and that received funding from a ministry responsible for justice matters. It should be noted that in many areas, particularly remote areas and in northern communities, victims of crime often rely on a variety of social, health and community agencies for assistance and that these agencies are not covered by this survey.⁴ Further, shelters for abused women and their children

province is responsible for the delivery of system-based services with the actual delivery of service done by professionals with volunteers and fee-for-service contract assistants helping with specific roles. Although all the Atlantic provinces follow the system-based model, some police forces in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick continue to provide police-based victim services.

It should be noted that the administration of victim services in Manitoba underwent an amalgamation over 2002 and 2003 whereby Manitoba Justice became responsible for the delivery of victim services, including those that had been delivered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In order to provide consistent and standardized victim services, Manitoba Justice established 21 Crime Victim Service Workers who are employees of Manitoba Justice and are considered agents of the Crown. The Crime Victim Service Workers guide victims through the complexities of the criminal justice system by advising them of their rights and responsibilities and offering support while the charge proceeds through the criminal justice system. The Crime Victim Service Workers work closely with the police and the courts and are housed in a number of RCMP detachments and court offices, but travel throughout the province to provide services. For the purpose of this survey, the survey response from Manitoba Justice, which represents the work performed by all Crime Victim Service Workers, is characterized as a system-based model of service delivery.

3. Services in the Atlantic provinces follow the "system-based" model of service delivery. Services under this model are independent from police, courts, and Crown-attorneys and assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery. The

4. See, for example, Mary Beth Levan (2003). Creating a framework for the Wisdom of the Community: Review of Victim Services in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory. Ottawa: Justice Canada.

are not covered by this survey as they are currently surveyed by Statistics Canada's Transition Home Survey (see Box 4), which was established in 1991/92.

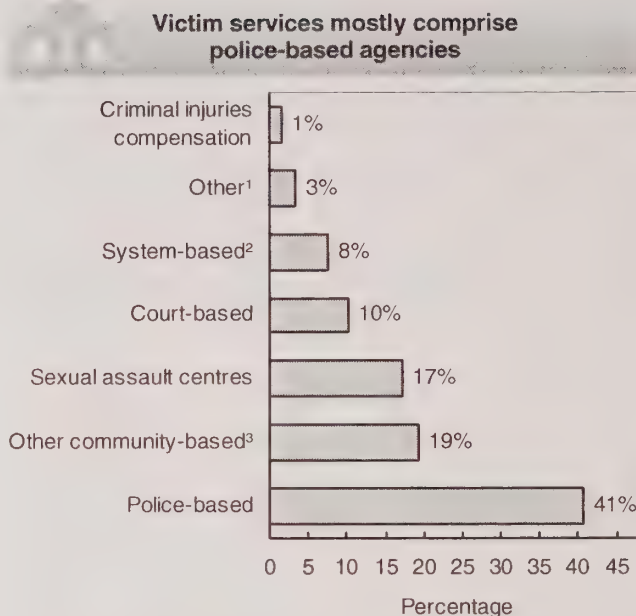
The 2002/03 Victim Services Survey collected the following types of information from all services with the exception of financial benefit programs: descriptive information to provide a profile of agencies (e.g. types of services offered and accessibility of services); annual counts for the preceding 12-month fiscal period (e.g. number of clients served, number of agency personnel and volunteers, and revenues and expenditures), and; a description of clients served on a "snapshot day" to provide a profile of clients who use the services. Criminal injuries compensation programs and other financial benefit programs were asked to complete a separate section that collected annual information on applications for compensation and other financial benefits and awards.

In October 2003, questionnaires were mailed to 715 agencies understood to provide services to victims of crime. Of these, 606 were deemed eligible to respond and 109 were ineligible to respond largely because they had either closed (59) or were out of the survey scope (45). The majority of closures were court-based victim/witness assistance agencies in British Columbia which were no longer funded after 2002/03. Four in ten of the 606 agencies identified were police-based victim service agencies (Figure 1). Of the 606 agencies, responses were received for 484 services and 8 criminal injuries compensation or financial benefit programs, equalling an overall response rate of 81%. Please refer to the Methodology section for more detail regarding data collection.

While the overall response rate was 81%, response rates were highest for system-based agencies and "other" types of agencies (100% respectively) and lowest for sexual assault centres (58%) (Table 1).

Among all the provinces and territories, response rates ranged from 59% for Quebec to 100% for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Yukon and Nunavut (Table 2).

Figure 1



1. Includes 9 sexual assault/partner or domestic violence treatment centres, 11 agencies that offered combined types of services and 1 other type of agency.

2. Services under this model assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery.

3. Includes Ontario Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral agencies which are community-based, but work directly with the police.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 1

Response rates by type of victim service agency, 2002/03

Type of agency	Number of services eligible to respond	Number of forms received	Number of services represented by the forms received	Response rate Percent
System-based¹	46	10	46	100
Police-based	246	182	207	84
Court-based	63	52	52	83
Sexual assault centres	105	59	61	58
Other community-based²	116	96	97	84
Criminal injuries compensation and other financial benefit programs	9	5	8	89
Other³	21	21	21	100
Total victim service agencies	606	425	492	81

1. Services under this model assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery.

2. Includes Ontario Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral agencies which are community-based, but work directly with the police.

3. Includes 9 sexual assault/partner or domestic violence treatment centres, 11 agencies that offered combined types of services and 1 other type of agency.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Table 2

Response rates by province and territory, 2002/03

	Services eligible to respond	Responses received	Response rate
	Number	Number	Percent
Newfoundland & Labrador	12	11	92
Prince Edward Island	4	4	100
Nova Scotia	31	31	100
New Brunswick	19	18	95
Quebec	44	26	59
Ontario	162	124	77
Manitoba	22	21	95
Saskatchewan	34	30	88
Alberta	116	88	76
British Columbia	151	129	85
Yukon territory	3	3	100
Northwest Territories	6	5	83
Nunavut	2	2	100
Canada	606	492	81

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Box 3 – The Victim Services Survey: Key Definitions

Agency: Agency is the unit of count for the Victim Services Survey and refers to the organization or office through which victim services are provided. It should be noted that in cases where victim service programs are offered by the provincial government through a number of locations or offices, each office is counted as one agency. This approach was taken in order to avoid under estimating the extent of victim services in some jurisdictions. See the Methodology section of this report for further details.

Victims: In the 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, the definition of victims or clients served includes both primary and secondary victims of crime. Primary victims are those who were the direct target of the crime and secondary victims are those who were not the target of the offence but were impacted by it (e.g., family members, friends, classmates, etc.). In this *Juristat*, the terms "victim" and "clients" are used interchangeably when referencing data from the Victim Services Survey and the terms include both primary and secondary victims. It should be noted that some agencies, particularly police-based agencies and Ontario's Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral agencies, also provide assistance to clients who experience a crisis which may not be criminal (e.g. suicides, fatal or serious vehicle collisions that are non-criminal, drownings, etc.). These counts are also included in counts of clients served.

Police-based services: Victim services that are delivered through a federal, provincial or municipal police service.

System-based services: Models of service delivery for victims of crime that are independent from police, courts and Crown-attorneys, and assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system. System-based agencies may also serve clients who choose not to involve the criminal justice system. These models of service are found in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where they are administered by the provincial governments. Service delivery by Manitoba's Crime Victim Service Workers, who are housed in various Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachments and court offices, has also been characterized as system-based for the purpose of this survey.

Court-based Victim/Witness Assistance Programs: These programs are specifically mandated to provide support services for individuals who have become involved in the court process as either victims or witnesses of crimes. They generally provide information, assistance and referrals with the goal of making the court process less intimidating. Types of services provided can include court orientation, preparation and accompaniment, updates on progress of the case, coordination of meetings with the Crown, assessment of children's ability to testify, etc. Programs can be geared toward specific clientele such as children or victims of domestic violence.

Sexual Assault Centres: Agencies whose mandate is to exclusively serve victims of recent or historical sexual assault. These agencies will often have 24-hour crisis telephone lines and are community-based, not-for-profit agencies.

Community-based services: Any other non-government, not-for-profit agencies not listed above that provide direct services to victims of crime and are funded in whole or in part by the provincial/territorial and/or federal government responsible for criminal justice matters. Crime prevention programs are excluded. For the purpose of analysis in this *Juristat*, Ontario's **Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (VCARS)** are included within community-based agencies. These agencies in Ontario work closely with the police but are a community-based, non-government service. They provide on-scene and short-term assistance to victims of crime and other traumatic events and make referrals to community services for longer-term assistance. The **Centres d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVACs)** in Quebec are also included within community-based agencies. These agencies are funded by the province's Ministry of Justice and their model of service delivery is the same as system-based agencies, but these are community-based agencies.

Continued on page 6

Other services: Hospital-based sexual assault and spousal assault treatment centres, and services that provide a combination of any of the above services (e.g. those that may be a sexual assault centre as well as a family violence or spousal assault crisis centre).

Criminal Injuries Compensation Programs: Programs that provide monetary awards and benefits to victims of crime to help ease the financial hardship incurred as a result of their victimization, and to assist them in healing from physical injury or psychological trauma. Such programs are normally governed by legislation that outlines eligibility criteria and by guidelines for decision-making.

Other Financial Benefits Programs: Programs other than Criminal Injury Compensation Programs that are designated to pay for specific services for victims of crime. Examples of specific services are professional counselling, transportation to hearings, and paying for independent legal counsel to respond to applications to open counselling, therapeutic or medical records by defence counsel in cases of sexual assault.

A Profile of Victim Services in Canada

Each province and territory is responsible for the administration of justice and the delivery of services to victims of crime in their jurisdiction. As such, service delivery is organized differently across each of the provinces and territories⁵. While some jurisdictions have “one-stop” system-based services that assist victims through the different stages of the criminal justice system, others have separate agencies assisting the victim at the police, court or corrections levels. Further, most jurisdictions have sexual assault centres and other community-based agencies that assist victims through the criminal justice process and provide other assistance such as counseling. In terms of financial compensation programs for victims of crime, all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador have some form of financial compensation program where the victim either receives money directly or the province covers costs for losses incurred or services required. As a result of the very different structures of service delivery across the provinces and territories, jurisdictional comparisons are not meaningful and are not advised.

Provision of information and emotional support are the most common types of services provided

Most types of assistance are either offered directly by the service agency or by referral to another agency. Overall, nearly all agencies indicated that they provide general information (95%) and emotional support (95%) (Table 3). Other services provided directly by the majority of agencies include: liaising with other agencies on behalf of the client (85%); providing court information (85%); providing information to the client on the structure and process of the criminal justice system (85%); providing public education such as information on crime prevention (85%); immediate safety planning for the client (85%); court accompaniment (82%), and; assistance with victim impact statements (81%). Among the different types of agencies, these services were among the most frequently reported. Referrals to other agencies are apparent in areas in which health or social services specialize, such as housing assistance, health/medical services and child protection services.

Seniors and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence are the focus of many agencies

The type of victimization people experience or their vulnerability can make it difficult for them to seek help and they may require specialized assistance to keep them safe, to help them through

the criminal justice process and to overcome the effects of the incident. This is particularly true in the case of violent crime or if the aggressor is a family member or someone known to the victim. Because of the relationship between the victim and the aggressor, the very nature of family violence often makes it difficult for victims to disclose the incident, provide testimony and recover from the victimization.

Agencies were asked to indicate whether they target certain populations for service, that is, populations the agency is specifically mandated to serve even though they may not be their exclusive clients. Overall, agencies most frequently reported targeting the following populations for service: senior victims of partner (79% of agencies) and elder abuse (75%), adult victims of sexual assault (71%), adult victims of partner abuse (67%), and adult victims of childhood sexual abuse (66%) (Table 4). When sexual assault centres are excluded from the analysis, these populations remain the top populations targeted for services, although their order of frequency differs slightly. The fact that these populations are the focus of many victim service agencies can be partly explained by the domestic violence policies and protocols in place in many provinces and territories and across the justice system.

Specific programs are directed most frequently toward children, women and seniors

Some victims may have particular needs that are best met by programs that are sensitive to these needs. For instance, children require assistance delivered in a way they can comprehend and in an environment in which they feel comfortable. Further, victims of Aboriginal descent or from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds may require services that are delivered in a culturally sensitive way that takes into account cultural values and norms, religious beliefs, traditions and language.

The Victim Services Survey asked agencies whether or not they provided specific programs that were dedicated to certain segments of the population. Among the 484 services, 57% reported offering programs dedicated to specific populations, 35% reported no dedicated programs or that the provision of such programs was not applicable to their work and 7% did not indicate whether or not they provided dedicated programs (Table 5). Overall, 41% of all agencies provided specific

5. For more information, see Department of Justice (n.d.). Context of Programs and Services for Victims of Crime in Canada. <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/pub.html>.

Table 3

**Percentage of victim service agencies that perform a service or work directly and/or through referral
by type of service and work, 2002/03¹**

	Direct service	Referral	Not applicable
	Percent	Percent	Percent
General Information	95	11	1
Emotional support	95	19	1
Liaise with other agencies on behalf of client	85	26	1
Court information	85	23	2
Information on criminal justice system structure and process	85	23	1
Public education	85	21	3
Safety planning - immediate	85	20	6
Court accompaniment	82	23	3
Assistance with victim impact statements	81	23	1
Crisis intervention	77	32	2
Court orientation	76	24	3
Victim/witness preparation	75	29	1
Case/trial updates	73	23	4
Advocacy	73	30	5
Training	70	19	15
Victim notification	64	33	8
Hospital accompaniment	61	25	17
Safety planning - long term	59	49	4
Critical stress debriefing/response	55	53	6
Transportation	55	38	12
Prevention training (for clients)	49	47	13
Emergency and disaster responses	49	33	26
Legal information and advocacy	49	57	4
Crisis counseling	44	59	2
Risk assessment (conduct or coordinate)	43	51	15
Claims assistance	41	48	12
Restorative justice/mediation measures: accompaniment & support	33	48	21
Counseling- individual	27	73	1
Crisis/distress line	27	66	8
Compensation- financial	22	63	12
Restorative justice/mediation measures: orientation and information	22	59	21
Psychological assistance	22	74	4
Lobby activities	20	30	46
Counseling- group	20	74	3
Self-help/peer support groups	20	78	4
Shelter/housing- emergency	15	82	4
Basic needs provision (e.g., food, clothing)	14	79	8
Conflict resolution	13	64	20
First aid	13	47	39
Compensation- other (e.g. pay fees for professional counselling)	12	61	19
Counseling- couple/family	12	82	4
Housing assistance	11	86	8
Health/medical services	6	79	12
Child protection services	5	85	6
Shelter/housing- longer term housing	3	87	7
Other	3	0	0

1. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

programs for children, 37% for adult women and 32% for seniors. One quarter of agencies offered programs for Aboriginal persons. Slightly less than one in five services offered programs geared toward persons with physical or mental disabilities (19% respectively) and one in eight agencies (13%) reported programs specifically for ethno-cultural or visible minority groups.

Assistance is provided face-to-face and by telephone

The most frequently reported methods of service delivery were face-to-face meetings with the client (94%) and speaking with the client by telephone (91%). While providing assistance at the scene of the incident was less common overall (51%), it was very common among police-based agencies and Ontario's

Table 4

Percentage of victim service agencies that target specific populations for service, 2002/03

	Victim service agencies	
	Number	Percent ¹
Adult victims of...		
Sexual assault	346	71
Partner abuse	326	67
Child sexual abuse	321	66
Other domestic violence	303	63
Criminal harassment (stalking)	302	62
Violence (general)	275	57
Workplace violence	183	38
Hate & bias crimes	179	37
Fraud/economic/property crime	176	36
Impaired driving	153	32
Residential school abuse	147	30
Political persecution/torture	37	8
Senior victims of...		
Partner abuse	383	79
Elder abuse	363	75
Other types of crime	298	62
Child or youth victims of...		
Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation	242	50
Domestic violence	208	43
Physical abuse/neglect	183	38
Violence - general	167	35
School-based violence	136	28
Hate & bias crimes	78	16
Impaired driving	57	12
Families of...		
Sexually abused children	257	53
Physically abused children	200	41
Homicide victims	191	39
Victims of impaired driving	121	25
Missing, abducted and exploited childre	117	24
Victims of residential school abuse	77	16

1. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Victim Crisis Assistance and Referrals Services that work directly with police (88%). Just over half of all services indicated providing service by mail (52%) and 6% reported using other methods, most of which were e-mail. The use of e-mail was most common among sexual assault centres and other community based agencies with 13% reporting this as one of their main methods of providing assistance (e.g. providing information).

The majority of services worked with the community and other agencies

Establishing connections with other agencies, persons at risk and the community in general is one way helping agencies of all kinds enhance service delivery. According to results from the 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, 86% of agencies reported

Table 5

Percentage of victim service agencies that offer dedicated programs to specific populations, by type of population, 2002/03

	Number	Percent
Total service agencies	484	100 ¹
Total not applicable/no dedicated programs	170	35
Total that offer dedicated programs	278	57
Not stated	36	7
Total service agencies	484	100 ²
Children - both sexes	198	41
Adult females	180	37
Seniors - both sexes	153	32
Aboriginal persons	121	25
Female seniors	120	25
Adult males	113	23
Female children	105	22
Male children	96	20
Male seniors	94	19
Persons with physical disabilities	93	19
Persons with mental disabilities	90	19
Lesbian/bisexual women	82	17
Gay/bisexual men	64	13
Ethno-cultural or visible minority persons	62	13

1. Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

2. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

performing outreach work, 84% reported serving as members on committees and 70% reported having partnerships with other programs or agencies. System-based agencies were most likely to report committee participation (98%), followed by community-based agencies (92%) and sexual assault centres (92%). Police-based agencies were least likely to report sitting on committees (74%). Partnerships were also reported most frequently by system-based agencies (98%), followed by sexual assault centres (79%). They were least common among police-based victim services (58%).

About one in ten agencies used a waiting list

Two ways in which agencies manage their client caseload are by using waiting lists or prioritizing clients based on certain criteria. Only 13% of service agencies (61) reported using a waiting list in 2002/03, and half of these were sexual assault centres. Among agencies that reported using a waiting list, average waiting times ranged from one day to one year, with a median average waiting period of 14 days. Of those agencies that provided an average waiting period, half stated that the waiting time had increased from the previous year, 35% said that it had remained the same, 9% said that it had decreased and 6% did not know whether it had changed.

Prioritizing clients for service was a more common method of caseload management than waiting lists, with 44% of agencies applying this approach. A further 38% did not prioritize clients, 14% indicated that this practice was not applicable to their organization, and 4% did not indicate whether or not they prioritized clients for service. Prioritizing clients for service

was most frequently reported by system-based agencies (65%) and court-based victim services (62%), followed by sexual assault centres (56%). Thirty-eight percent of community agencies reported prioritizing clients, as did 35% of police-based agencies.

Agencies that prioritized clients were most likely to assess the urgency for service based on the following criteria: the agency's mandate or protocols (78%); the severity of the violence (77%); imminent court date for the victim (66%); victim's risk of repeat victimization or safety concerns (64%); and, whether or not the victim had contacted the agency directly (62%). Agencies were less likely to consider the victim's history of victimization (51%), the presence of children (47%) or the involvement of other agencies (35%) when making decisions regarding priority for service.

Criminal injuries compensation programs and other financial benefit programs⁶

During fiscal year 2002/03, nine provinces had compensation programs for victims of crime and all but one responded to the Victim Services Survey.⁷ The aim of compensation programs is to alleviate the financial burden victims of crime and their families can incur as a result of the incident. Each program is established according to its respective provincial legislative authority and is administered either by the ministry responsible for victim services or a compensation board. While there are variations across the provinces in terms of eligibility criteria, in general the programs are available to the victim of a criminal offence (usually violent crimes), family members or dependants

of persons who lost their life, and persons who are injured or killed while trying to assist a police officer or while preventing or attempting to prevent a crime.

The eight criminal injuries compensation programs that responded to the Victim Services Survey reported a total of 10,874 applications that were adjudicated or concluded during 2002/03 and another 8,927 that were carried forward to the following fiscal year. Of the total adjudicated, 70% were allowed or granted and 14% were disallowed. The remainder had another status, such as decision pending, withdrawn or abandoned by the applicant.

The eight respondents reported paying a total of \$70.6 million in compensation for victims of crime in 2002/03. The largest proportion of this total was paid out for loss of wages (42%). Compensation for pain and suffering accounted for 14% and costs for medical needs, rehabilitation, dental and eyewear needs made up 12% of the total amount spent on compensation.⁸ Periodic payments by one jurisdiction accounted for the almost 19% of money awarded for other reasons.

6. Readers are cautioned that aggregated figures for provincial criminal injuries compensation and financial benefit programs may be influenced by the activities of the largest provinces.

7. Of the ten provinces, only Newfoundland and Labrador did not have a compensation program during 2002/03. British Columbia's compensation program was unable to respond to the Victim Services Survey because of changes to the administration of the program and to its information management system that occurred in 2002. None of the three territories have compensation programs.

8. It should be the types of losses for which compensation is awarded varies by province and that not all provinces compensate for these types of losses.

Box 4 – Shelters for abused women in Canada: Some highlights from the 2001/02 Transition Home Survey

Prior to the Victim Services Survey, Statistics Canada's Transition Home Survey was the only source of national data on services for victims of crime. This biennial survey collects information on residential services for abused women and their children to provide a profile of services and counts of clients served.

On April 15 2002, there were 524 shelters that provided residential services for abused women and their children, 482 of which responded to the 2001/02 Transition Home Survey (Code, 2003).¹ A total of 101,248 women and dependant children were admitted to the 482 shelters across Canada in 2001/02. Compared to 1999/00, 25 new facilities reported to the 2001/02 survey. However, many of these were new types of residential facility services offered within existing shelters and may not result in additional spaces. Counting only openings of new facilities and excluding those housed in existing shelters, the number of shelter closures in 2001/02 exceeded new shelter growth (16 closures compared to 14 new facilities). Over the years, the types of shelters have also been changing with a decrease in transition homes and an increase in emergency shelters which provide short term respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women (Statistics Canada, 2003a).

The majority of women (73%) and children (84%) residing in shelters on April 15, 2002 were there to escape abuse. Of the women residing in shelters for reasons other than abuse, the majority (58%) was unable to find affordable housing and 31% were experiencing short-term housing problems. The largest proportion of women residing in shelters that day were aged 25 to 34 (35%), and the majority of children accompanying their mothers were under the age of ten, with children under five accounting for 39% of all children admitted (Statistics Canada, 2003a).

In 2001/02, 90% of shelters served urban areas, 42% served rural areas and 28% provided services to reserves, indicating that shelters often serve more than one type of area. While the percentage serving urban areas increased slightly from 1999/00, the proportion serving rural and reserve areas decreased.

In addition to providing secure and safe accommodations, the majority of shelters offered a number of services to residents and women living in the community. Services offered most commonly to residents include: individual, short-term counseling (89%); advocacy (87%); specialized services for women aged 55 and older (84%); housing referral (83%); parenting skills (76%), and; life skills (71%). Sixty-three percent of shelters offered culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women and 61% provided such services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women. Over half of shelters provided group counseling for children (56%) and almost seven in ten provided programs for children who witnessed or experienced abuse (68%) (Statistics Canada, 2003a).

1. Data from the 2003/2004 Transition Home Survey were not available at the time of this publication, but will be available from Statistics Canada in the Spring of 2005.

Box 5 - Victims rights and services under correctional services and conditional release¹

Improving the rights of victims of crime also extends to the correctional and conditional release systems. As with other sectors of the criminal justice system, victims have voiced their need for more information regarding the decisions and activities of the criminal justice system in relation to the offender who harmed them, more information on the offender and more opportunities to be heard. Federal and provincial correctional agencies, the National Parole Board and the provincial parole boards of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia are all impacted by these concerns.

The Corrections and Conditional Release Act

Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) is responsible for the supervision of offenders serving custodial sentences of two years or more while the provinces and territories are responsible for offenders serving less than two years. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny and revoke the parole of all offenders, including those serving a sentence of less than two years. Its jurisdiction extends to all provinces except Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia which have their own provincial parole boards. The legislation governing the CSC and the NPB, the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA)*, formally recognizes the important role of victims in the correctional process (Solicitor General of Canada, 2002). Examples of the types of rights afforded to victims of crime under the *CCRA* include:

- The right to be registered to receive initial and ongoing information about the offender (e.g. location of penitentiary in which the sentence is being served; dates on which the offender is scheduled for release on parole or temporary absences and destinations during these absences; dates of NPB hearings; appeals by the offender of NPB decisions, etc.).
- The right for Victim Impact Statements to be shared with the CSC and to be considered by the CSC when assessing the offender's level of risk of re-offending and his or her programming needs.
- The right to obtain a copy of NPB decisions.
- The right not to be contacted by inmates.

In its May 2000 report which was the result of an in-depth review of the *CCRA*, the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights made six recommendations that pertained specifically to victims. The Government accepted all six recommendations. A recommendation to allow victims to make an oral presentation at NPB hearings was implemented in July 2001. Implementation of the other recommendations listed below is in progress:

- Provide victims with information related to offender program participation, offender institutional conduct, and new offences committed by a conditionally released offender resulting in federal reincarceration.
- Advise victims in a timely manner, and wherever possible in advance, of the planned, anticipated or scheduled routine transfer of inmates.
- Provide victims with access to audio tape recordings of NPB hearings for consultation purposes.
- Development of a comprehensive strategy to prevent any unwanted communications with victims from offenders in correctional institutions.
- To establish a victims' information and complaints office to have jurisdiction over victim-related activities of both the CSC and the NPB.

The National Parole Board: Recent statistics

Between July 1, 2001, when the recommendation to allow oral presentations at NPB hearings was implemented, and March 31, 2003, there were 220 presentations by victims at 152 NPB hearings (National Parole Board, 2003). Of these, 75% were in person, 17% were on audiotape and 8% were on videotape. The major offence of victimization for those making presentations during this period was most likely to be murder (27%), sexual assault or rape (20%) and manslaughter (16%). Regarding the provision of information to victims, the NPB reported 14,270 contacts with victims for this purpose in 2002/03, an increase of 2% over the previous 12-month period. In addition, the NPB received and responded to 4,009 requests for NPB hearing decisions, representing a 20% increase from the previous period.

1. Corrections-based victim services were not included in the 2002/03 Victim Services Survey because the National Parole Board was not in a position to report national statistics at that time.

A Profile of Clients

The number of clients served by victim services provides an indication of workload and, if collected in a standard fashion at regular intervals, can provide trend information. The Victim Services Survey attempted to collect the number of clients served by agencies during the fiscal year 2002/03. However, practices in collecting statistics vary greatly across victim service agencies, with some services unable to keep ongoing statistics because of a lack of resources or because of issues or policies around confidentiality.

Almost 360,000 clients assisted in 2002/03

Of the 484 services, 85% were able to provide annual counts for 2002/03, 13% reported that they had no counts available and 2% did not indicate whether or not they could provide

annual counts. The 412 service agencies that provided counts reported helping 359,767 victims during that fiscal year. Many of these service agencies were not able to provide a breakdown of these annual counts by sex or age of their clients, but among those that could, the clients were more often female than male and adults than children.

In order to gather more detailed information on the characteristics of clients served, a "snapshot" approach was used. Agencies were asked to track clients served on October 22, 2003⁹ according to their sex, age group and type of victimization. In total, the 373 (77%) service agencies that responded to this question served 4,358 clients on that day (Table 6).

9. Through consultations with service agencies it was determined that October is a month where counts would be least affected by factors that can contribute to highs and lows in the demand for service.

Table 6

Number of clients served, by sex, age groupings and type of crime, October 22, 2003

Type of crime	Males by age grouping										Females by age grouping					
	Grand total		Total males		0-11 years	12-17 years	18-64 years	65+ years	Age unknown	Total females	0-11 years	12-17 years	18-64 years	65+ years	Age unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number					Number	Percent	Number				
Homicide	85	2	28	3	2	1	18	4	3	57	2	0	2	47	1	7
Other loss of life	118	3	55	6	1	6	35	9	4	63	2	1	8	40	8	6
Criminal harassment (stalking)	138	3	21	2	1	1	17	1	1	117	3	0	0	105	0	12
Sexual assault - total	1,300	30	179	18	33	35	89	1	21	1,121	33	160	229	636	9	87
by spouse, ex-spouse, intimate partner	210	5	14	1	0	3	11	0	0	196	6	5	13	168	2	8
by other family member	582	13	68	7	17	18	28	0	5	514	15	115	118	226	5	50
by other relationship	508	12	97	10	16	14	50	1	16	411	12	40	98	242	2	29
Other violent offences - total	1,780	41	302	31	45	55	175	11	16	1,478	44	20	88	1,246	16	108
by spouse, ex-spouse, intimate partner	1,207	28	64	6	5	3	52	0	4	1,143	34	4	24	1,041	5	69
by other family member	198	5	66	7	28	17	16	5	0	132	4	11	48	55	5	13
by other relationship	375	9	172	17	12	35	107	6	12	203	6	5	16	150	6	26
TOTAL CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON	3,421	78	585	59	82	98	334	26	45	2,836	84	181	327	2,074	34	220
Arson	13	0	5	1	1	1	2	0	1	8	0	0	0	7	1	0
Other property crimes	301	7	134	14	1	3	102	17	11	167	5	3	1	125	12	26
Impaired driving	22	1	16	2	0	0	16	0	0	6	0	0	0	5	0	1
Other traffic offences	27	1	18	2	1	0	16	1	0	9	0	0	1	7	0	1
Other Criminal Code offences	205	5	88	9	5	6	51	3	23	117	3	3	7	75	2	30
Non-criminal incidents	296	7	112	11	5	27	57	8	15	184	5	2	19	114	18	31
Traffic incidents - undetermined if criminal	35	1	17	2	3	0	12	2	0	18	1	1	2	14	1	0
Other incidents - undetermined if criminal	38	1	11	1	3	3	5	0	0	27	1	3	0	19	1	4
TOTAL OTHER INCIDENTS	937	22	401	41	19	40	261	31	50	536	16	12	30	366	35	93
GRAND TOTAL	4,358	100	986	100	101	138	595	57	95	3,372	100	193	357	2,440	69	313

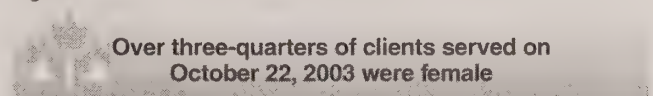
Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Over three-quarters of victims served on October 22, 2003 were victims of a crime against the person

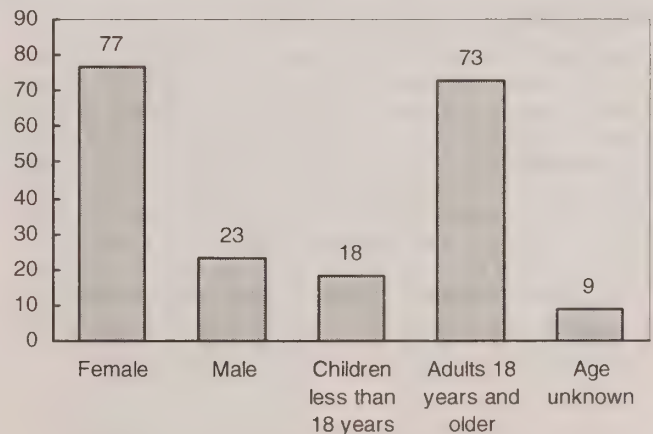
The vast majority (78%) of clients served on October 22, 2003 were victims of a crime against the person and 22% were victims who had experienced other types of incidents such as property crimes and non-criminal incidents (e.g. suicides, traffic collisions) (Table 6). Sexual assaults accounted for 30% of victims served that day. When sexual assault centres are removed from the analysis, victims of sexual assault account for 21% of victims served. Victims of "other" violent offences (excludes homicide, other offences resulting in the loss of life and sexual assault) accounted for over four in ten clients served. The majority of these were victims of violence by a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner and were largely female. Overall, 28% of all clients served on October 22, 2003 were victims of "other" violence by a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner and almost all of these were female. Compared to males, women assisted on snapshot day were more likely to be primary or secondary victims of crimes against the person (84% versus 59%). Overall, females accounted for 77% of all clients served on October 22, 2003 (Figure 2).

The frequency of female victims of spousal violence who were assisted by victim service agencies on snapshot day is not surprising given that most provinces and territories have protocols regarding spousal violence. Further, results from the Victim Services Survey show that a high proportion of

Figure 2



Percent of clients served



Characteristics of client served

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

agencies target victims of spousal violence for service. Further, data provided by a subset of 122 police departments in 2003 to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey show that adult female victims are more likely to be assaulted by someone they know (76% versus 48% for males), particularly a current or ex-partner (31%). Finally, according to the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, victims of spousal violence (34%) are more likely to use a social service than victims of non-spousal violence (9%).

Boys served by agencies were more likely to be victims of non-sexual violence, girls more likely to be victims of sexual assault

Regarding children, snapshot data show that children under 18 years of age accounted for 18% of clients who were served by victim services on October 22, 2003 (Figure 2), and 20% of victims of crimes against the person. Similarly, data from the 2003 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey show that children under 18 years of age accounted for 23% of victims of crimes against the person who came to the attention of police. On October 22, 2003, three-quarters of the boys in this age group and about nine in 10 of the girls were victims of a crime against the person. Boys were most often being assisted by victim services because of non-sexual crimes against the person (46%) while girls were most often being served that day because of sexual violence (71%), particularly by someone other than a family member or intimate partner (Table 6).

Clients served on snapshot day were most likely to receive information and emotional support

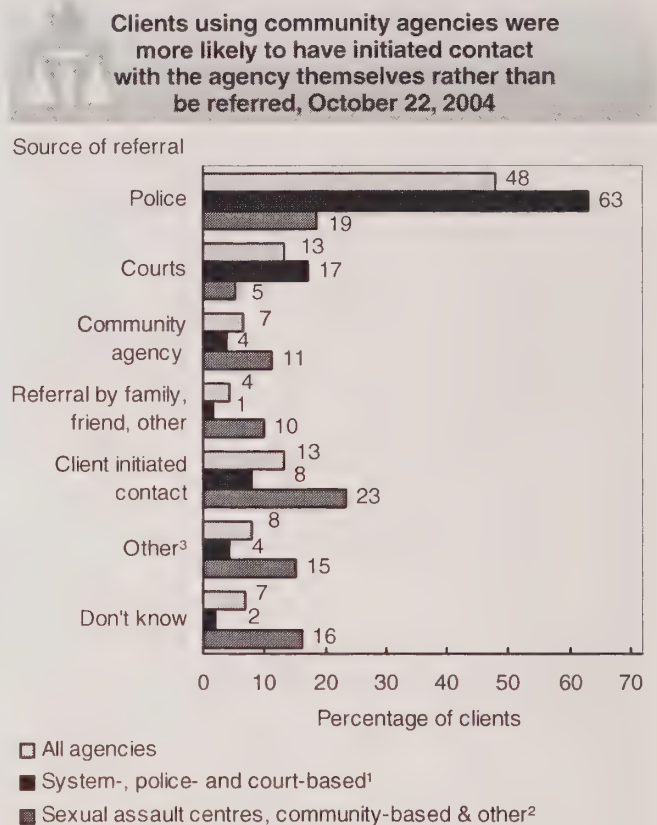
On snapshot day, clients most frequently received emotional support (45%) and general information (39%).¹⁰ Other types of services received that day include: case or trial updates (28%); information on the criminal justice system (26%); education, prevention and training (23%), and; court information (23%). The services that were delivered the least that day were the more specialized services that the majority of agencies do not offer directly, including: assistance with restorative justice/mediation measures (less than 1%) and first aid, health/medical services and hospital accompaniment (1%, respectively).

Less than one-half (47%) of victims served on snapshot day by a service other than a police-based, court-based or system-based service had reported to police while 31% had not reported and reporting was unknown for 22% of clients.¹¹ Similarly, the 2001/02 Transition Home Survey found that 29% of women in shelters for reasons of abuse on that survey's snapshot day (April 15, 2002) had not reported their most recent incident of abuse to the police (Code, 2003).

Clients using sexual assault centres or community-based agencies were more likely to initiate contact themselves than be referred by the police or the courts

Clients served on October 22, 2003 by victim service agencies were most frequently referred by the police (48%) (Figure 3). This is not surprising given the number of police-based and court-based services. Clients were equally likely to have been referred by the courts as to have initiated contact themselves

Figure 3



1. Services under the system-based model assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery. For analytical reasons, this grouping also includes Ontario Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral agencies which are community-based, but work directly with police.
 2. Includes 9 sexual assault/partner or domestic violence treatment centres, 11 agencies that offered combined types of services and 1 other type of agency.
 3. Other sources of referral include hospitals/health care providers, corrections, other government agencies, and private practitioners.
- Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

(13%, respectively). The source of referral differed between agencies that are strongly linked to the criminal justice system, such as system-based, police-based, and court-based services, and those that are community-based and sexual assault centres. Clients assisted that day by sexual assault centres and other community agencies were more likely to have initiated contact themselves (23%) and less likely to have been referred by the police (19%) or courts (5%). Other more common sources of referral for clients of sexual assault centres and community-based agencies were individuals not associated with formal agencies, such as family and friends (10%), other community agencies (11%) and other agencies (15%) (e.g. health care providers, private practitioners, etc.)

10. This analysis is based on data provided by respondents who reported counts of clients assisted by type of victimization as well as the type of services offered. These percentages are therefore based on 4,286 clients assisted.
11. Victims served by police-, court-, or system-based services have inherently reported to the police. Therefore, these agencies are excluded from this analysis.

Providing Services to a Diverse Population

Ethno-cultural and visible minority populations

Canada is becoming increasingly ethno-culturally diverse with the majority of immigrants living in large urban centres. According to the 2001 Census of Population, Canada's foreign-born population is the highest it has been in 70 years, with 5.4 million people (or 18% of the total population) born outside Canada (Statistics Canada, 2003b). Among those who immigrated to Canada during the 1990's, 58% were born in Asian and Middle Eastern countries and one-in-five emigrated from Europe. Almost three quarters of all people who had immigrated during that period lived in the three Census Metropolitan Areas of Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal.

As a result of increased immigration from non-European countries, the 2001 Census found that 13% of Canada's population identified themselves as a member of a visible minority. In addition, in 2001, almost one in six Canadians (approximately 5,335,000 people) had a mother tongue other than English or French, with the most common languages being Chinese, Italian, German, Punjabi and Spanish (Statistics Canada, 2002).

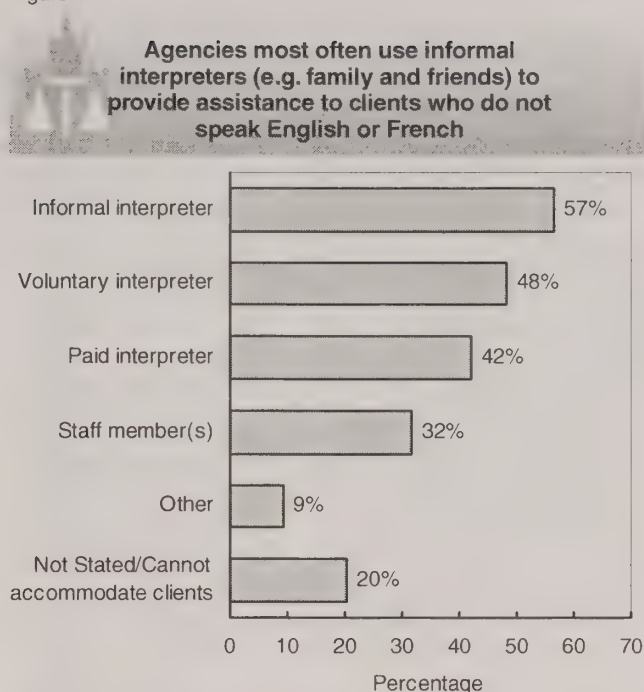
Surveys of the general population suggest that victimization among recent immigrants and visible minorities is lower than other populations, although factors such as language spoken and reluctance to participate in telephone surveys can impact the accuracy of victimization data. The 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization reported that 22% of immigrants (including non-visible minorities) who arrived in Canada between 1995 and 1999 were the victim of a property or personal crime, compared to 23% of earlier immigrants and 28% of persons born in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2001a). Further, the 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey, which was conducted in nine languages including English and French (Badets, Chard and Levett, 2003), found that 13% of visible minorities had been a victim of a crime sometime during the five years prior to the survey compared to 17% of non-visible minorities.

Victims from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds can face a number of barriers in terms of seeking help. For example, there may be reluctance by the victim to report the incident to the authorities because of cultural or religious beliefs, influence by the community, or mistrust (Smith, 2004). In cases of family violence, this latter concern can mean fear of what will happen to her/himself and the offender if the incident is brought to the attention of the police. Further, attempts to seek or provide help could be thwarted if services are not available in the victim's language or if the service providers do not understand the victim's ethno-cultural background.

One in eight agencies offered programs specifically for ethno-cultural or visible minority groups

One in eight (13%) service agencies reported offering programs dedicated to certain ethno-cultural or visible minority groups (Table 5). While over six in ten of these agencies did not specify the group for which they have programs, 16% reported having programs for South Asians (e.g. East Indian and Punjabi), 8% for East and South East Asians such as Chinese, 6% for

Figure 4



Note: Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

persons from Latin, Central or South American origins and 18% for individuals from a variety of other origins.¹²

The vast majority of agencies can provide services to victims who do not speak English or French

While eight in ten agencies indicated that they could provide services to clients who do not speak English or French, 18% said they could not and 2% did not answer the question. Informal interpreters (57%), such as family and friends, was the method most frequently used to provide help to victims unable to speak English or French (Figure 4). This was followed by voluntary interpreters (48%), paid interpreters (42%) and staff members who could speak other languages (32%).¹³

Agencies were asked to indicate the languages in which staff or volunteers were able to communicate verbally with clients, and in which language audio or visual materials are available. Among all 484 services, the most frequently reported non-official language in which staff or volunteers could speak was Spanish (20% of agencies), followed by German (19%), and Chinese, Punjabi and Italian (14%, respectively) (Table 7). In addition, 17% indicated having audio or visual materials available in Chinese, followed by Punjabi (15%), Spanish (13%), Hindi (12%), Vietnamese (11%) and Arabic (10%).

12. Percentages will not add to 100 due to multiple responses.

13. Percentages will not add to 100 due to multiple responses.

Table 7

Percent of victim service agencies that can accommodate clients who do not speak English or French, by type of language and source of delivery, 2002/03

Language	Staff/volunteers able to communicate verbally		Audio/visual materials available	
	Number	Percent ¹	Number	Percent ¹
Spanish	97	20	64	13
German	92	19	19	4
Punjabi	70	14	72	15
Chinese	68	14	82	17
Italian	67	14	32	7
Cree	58	12	13	3
Hindi	55	11	56	12
Dutch	54	11	7	1
Polish	54	11	26	5
Portuguese	51	11	28	6
Ukrainian	50	10	7	1
Arabic	43	9	46	10
Hungarian	43	9	5	1
Vietnamese	41	8	51	11
Persian (farsi)	38	8	39	8
Urdu	36	7	18	4
Korean	32	7	26	5
Tagalog (Philipino)	32	7	7	1
Inuktitut	31	6	16	3
Greek	30	6	15	3
Gujarati	30	6	8	2
Ojibway	30	6	17	4
Somali	26	5	10	2
Tamil	26	5	11	2
Other	39	8	16	3

1. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Aboriginal peoples

In 2001, 976,305 persons identified themselves as Aboriginal, a 22% increase from 1996 (Statistics Canada, 2003c).¹⁴ The 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization indicated that Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be a victim of a crime (Statistics Canada, 2001b). More specifically, while rates of theft of personal property were similar between the two groups, the rate of violent victimization among Aboriginal people was almost three times that of non-Aboriginal people (307 versus 110 incidents per 1,000 people). Moreover, Aboriginal people who reported being the victim of a property or personal crime were more likely to be victimized multiple times.

Among the 484 victim service agencies, 25% of agencies reported providing specific programs for Aboriginal people (Table 5).

Over one-quarter of agencies had staff or volunteers who could speak an Aboriginal language

With respect to communication in Aboriginal languages, 20% of services indicated that they had staff or volunteers who were

able to communicate in an Aboriginal language. Specifically, 12% of services reported having personnel who could speak Cree, 6% had personnel who could speak Inuktitut and 6% Ojibway (Table 7). Personnel in a further 5% of service agencies were able to communicate in a variety of other Aboriginal languages, the most common being Micmac and Dene.¹⁵

Residential schools abuse is unique to the Aboriginal community and continues to affect its members. These schools were first established in Canada in 1880 with the aim of colonizing Aboriginal children into either English or French culture and generations of Aboriginal children attended these schools until the last one closed in 1984 (Law Commission of Canada, 2000). Research and testimony reveal that Aboriginal children suffered many forms of abuse while institutionalized (Claes and Clifton, 2000). According to the Victim Services Survey, 30% of all agencies reported targeting victims of residential school abuse for service and 16% targeted their families.

14. About half this growth can be attributed to demographic factors, such as a high birth rate among Aboriginal women. The remainder of the growth can be attributed to an increase in the number of people identifying themselves as Aboriginal and better enumeration of reserves.

15. Percentages are based on multiple responses.

Populations with disabilities

In 2001, 3.6 million Canadians living in households (or 12.4%) reported having a disability (Cossette and Duclos, 2004).¹⁶ While disabilities related to mobility, pain and agility, were most common, with about one in ten Canadians 15 years and older experiencing any of these, other disabilities included those related to hearing (4.4%), vision (2.5%) as well as psychological disabilities (2.2%). Learning and developmental disabilities were less common (1.9% and 0.5%, respectively). While degrees of disability vary, nearly 6% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported having a severe to very severe disability that year (e.g. being dependent on a wheelchair, being bed-ridden for a long period of time, etc.).

Data from the 1999 GSS on victimization indicate that persons with disabilities¹⁷ were more likely to be the victim of a violent crime (222 incidents per 1,000 for persons with disabilities versus 185 for those without), but that rates of multiple victimization for personal and property crimes were similar between persons with disabilities and those without (Statistics Canada, 2001c).

Agencies are more likely to be able to accommodate victims with mobility challenges than hearing or visual impairments

According to the 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, 19% of agencies provided programs dedicated to persons with physical disabilities and the same percentage reported providing such programs for persons with mental disabilities. In addition, agencies were asked to indicate if they could accommodate the provision of services to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Overall, the vast majority (90%) of services were able to accommodate persons with challenges in mobility, with about six in ten stating they are able to accommodate services for persons with hearing (63%) or visual impairments (60%).

Overall, 87% of agencies indicated that their location is wheelchair accessible, 5% did not have at least one entrance that was wheelchair accessible and 9% did not provide a response to the question.

Of the 307 agencies that were able to accommodate service delivery to persons with hearing impairments, 67% make use of sign language communication or interpretation, 33% have teletypewriters or telephone devices for the deaf and a further 12% indicated using other methods.¹⁸

Fewer agencies offered special services for people who are blind or visually impaired. Of the 288 that said they could accommodate victims with visual impairments, 26% had large print reading material available, 13% had Braille reading material and 15% indicated using other methods to accommodate visually impaired victims.

Box 6 – Victim Impact Statements

Victim impact statements represent a key initiative in affording victims a voice during the criminal justice process. Originally introduced in 1988, the opportunity for victims to provide information in the criminal justice process has expanded beyond sentencing hearings (see Boxes 1 and 5). In 1999, the *Criminal Code* was amended making it mandatory for judges to inquire prior to sentencing whether the victim had been informed of his or her right to submit a victim impact statement. Despite being a key initiative to involve the victim in the process, research to date suggests that very few statements are submitted to the courts (Roberts, 1992; Roberts and Edgar, 2002).

Few agencies track information on victim impact statements

In order to assess the extent to which victim services are involved in victim impact statements and the extent to which the statements make their way to the court, the Victim Services Survey attempted to count the number of victim impact statements with which victim service agencies assisted victims during the fiscal year 2002/03 and the number that were filed with the courts. Overall, many agencies were unable to provide this information. Specifically, 15% of agencies indicated that assisting clients with victim impact statements was not within the work they performed and a further 3% did not answer the question. Among the remaining 399 agencies, just over half (51%) did not track this information. The 187 agencies that did track this information reported assisting clients with approximately 15,500 victim impact statements in 2002/03.

Regarding the number of statements filed with the courts, even fewer agencies tracked this information. Counting only those agencies for whom this type of work was applicable and those who responded to the question, 65% reported that they did not track this information and the remaining 109 agencies reported a total of 5,466 statements filed with the courts in 2002/03.

The Victim Services Survey asked agencies about events that have impacted the demand for service and, despite the high percentage of agencies unable to provide specific counts of victim impacts statements with which they assisted, several agencies indicated that initiatives to ensure victims are informed of their right to complete a victim impact statement have increased their workload.

To serve victims with mental challenges, agencies mostly rely on partnerships with specialized agencies and help from those close to the victim

Approximately eight in ten (81%) agencies were able to accommodate clients with mental challenges or mental health issues. Of these 394 agencies, 89% accomplished this through partnerships with or assistance from another specialized or professional agency. About eight in ten (79%) stated relying on informal resources such as family, friends and caregivers of the client, and; 47% reported having trained staff.¹⁹

16. These data are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey. Persons with disabilities are those who reported difficulties with daily living activities, or who indicated that a physical, mental condition or health problem reduced the kind or amount of activities they could do.

17. The reader is cautioned that the General Social Survey's definition of a person with a disability is different from the one above. Respondents to the 1999 General Social Survey were asked 2 questions designed specifically to identify persons with disabilities. Please see Canadians with Disabilities (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0033MIE) for more details.

18. The remaining 11% did not indicate methods used.

19. Percentages do not add to 100 due to multiple responses.

Restorative Justice

One in six victim service agencies reported being involved in restorative justice processes

Restorative justice is a relatively new concept in the criminal justice system and has the goals of restoring the loss experienced by the victim and the community, restoring relationships, and repairing any harm done to the victims and the community. This is achieved through voluntary participation by all parties, including members of the community, and requires the offender to recognize the harm they have caused, to accept responsibility and to actively take part in the reparation of harm done (Department of Justice Canada, n.d.). It encompasses a number of remedies and processes such as mediation, restitution and sentencing circles. It is an alternative to traditional criminal justice sanctions and what are considered to be adversarial processes. Some victim advocates caution, however, that restorative justice processes may not be suitable for all types of crimes, such as violent incidents or ones characterized by an imbalance of power between the victim and the offender (e.g. cases of family violence).

Several victim service agencies reported providing services related to restorative justice and/or mediation measures either directly or through referral, namely the provision of accompaniment and support during these processes (33% directly) and orientation and information regarding these processes (22% directly) (Table 3). In addition, agencies were asked whether or not they are involved in the delivery and coordination of restorative justice processes for criminal justice matters. Less than one in five (17%) of all services reported playing such a role in restorative justice activities. Policed-based services were most likely to report being involved in these processes (27%), followed by court-based services (16%). Sexual assault centres were the least likely to be involved (2%).

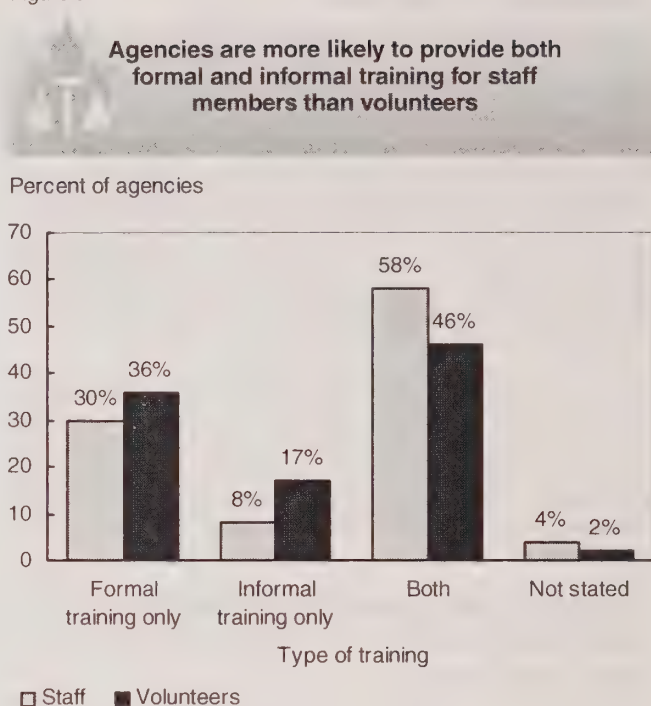
Employees and Volunteers

Agencies are more likely to provide staff with a combination of formal and informal training

For 2002/03, 444 victim service agencies (92%) reported the equivalent of 1,448 paid full-time staff having worked that year, or an average of 3 staff members per agency.²⁰ Excluding the 26 agencies (5%) that were run completely by volunteers, 94% of agencies indicated that they provide training for employees (a response was not stated for 3% of agencies). The majority of these provided a combination of both formal and informal training (Figure 5).²¹ Again, excluding agencies run completely by volunteers, nine in ten reported at least one staff person receiving training or some type of professional development in 2002/03 and only 3% of agencies reported no staff receiving any training that year. In total, 1,623 employees received training or some type of professional development that year.²²

Given that victim services can be challenging work, it is not surprising that 92% of agencies reported providing staff with support to help them cope with these challenges. Just over half (53%) of these reported providing a combination of formal (e.g. employee assistance programs) and informal support, such as informal support offered between co-workers and by management in the form of informal discussion, guidance and

Figure 5



Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: 2002/03 Victim Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

encouragement and informal support for leave where there are no policies on leave for this reason. While 24% reported providing informal support only, 22% provided formal support only.

One in six volunteers left in 2002/03

Just over three-quarters of agencies (367) benefited from the work of 9,616 volunteers in 2002/03, suggesting an average of 26 volunteers per agency. About one in five agencies (19%) indicated that they did not use volunteers (the remaining 5% did not respond to the question). Almost three-quarters (74%) of volunteers had worked for the agency at some point during the previous fiscal year and the remaining 26% were new that year. Of the volunteers who had worked during 2002/03, 17%, or 1,616, had left the agency before the end of the fiscal year.

20. Counts for "full-time equivalents" reflect the conversion of hours worked by all part- and full-time employees into the equivalent of full-time positions.

21. Formal training by the agency includes the agency subsidizing the employee or volunteer in full or in part to attend certified courses, post-secondary courses or any other private courses. Informal training by the agency includes "on-the-job" training which is unstructured training in the work environment. It is training whereby employees or volunteers acquire the knowledge needed to perform their work under normal working conditions with the help of an experienced worker or under the direction of supervisory personnel. Informal training also includes the provision of "self-training" tools by the agency (e.g. texts, manuals, videos, CD's or computer software) that are self-administered. Informal training would also include conference, seminar and workshop attendance.

22. The number receiving training represents a count of both full and part-time employees and therefore can exceed the count of full-time equivalents employed in 2002/03.

Volunteers can help in many different areas. While some may assist clients directly or work on-call to provide assistance to clients when the need arises, others provide valuable assistance in areas such as administration, fund-raising, or serving as members of boards of directors. Respondents reported victim services volunteers contributing at least 44,275 hours per week during fiscal year 2002/03, the equivalent of 1,107 full-time volunteers. Victim Services Survey data suggest that volunteers each worked an average of almost five hours per week. In comparison, according to data from Statistics Canada's 2000 National Survey of Volunteering and Participating, between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000, 118,000 people in Canada volunteered an average of 12 minutes per week to work with a variety of law and legal organizations that includes victim services²³ (Taylor-Butts, 2002).

The Victim Services Survey asked respondents to provide a breakdown of hours worked by volunteers by specific types of duties. Among those that could provide these data, the majority (59%) of volunteer hours were spent doing on-call hours for direct victim service while 16% were spent on direct service to clients. Seven percent of volunteer hours were dedicated to other activities such as administrative duties, serving as members of boards of directors or fundraising. For 17% of hours, the type of work performed by volunteers was not specified.

The vast majority (92%) of services that used volunteers provided training for them, with 46% of these providing a combination of both formal and informal training (Figure 5). Compared to paid staff, volunteers were less likely to receive a combination of formal and informal training. Respondents reported 5,820 volunteers having received training or professional development during 2002/03.

Compared to paid employees, volunteers are more likely to receive just informal support to assist them with challenges they may face, such as stress when working directly with clients. Almost four in ten agencies (38%) reported providing informal support only for volunteers compared to 24% for employees.

Expenditures

Almost nine in ten victim service agencies (excluding compensation programs) reported information on their expenditures. Four hundred and thirty agencies reported expenditures totalling \$82.6 million. In addition, according to the 2001/02 Transition Home Survey, 451 shelters for abused women and their children reported \$212 in expenditures that year.

Impacts on Service Delivery and Future Challenges

In order to assess the factors affecting the delivery of services by agencies, the Victim Services Survey asked agencies to describe events that had occurred in the two years prior to the survey that impacted service delivery and the challenges they expected to face in the coming year. In general, the events impacting service delivery were frequently related to funding and changes in legislation, such as the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, Bill C-79 from 1999 requiring the courts to ensure victims have been informed of their right to complete a victim impact

statement, and federal privacy legislation affecting the RCMP. Several provinces, such as the Atlantic provinces, Ontario and Saskatchewan, described changes in policies on domestic violence cases that increased the demand for service. Some jurisdictions also reported an increase in workload as a result of Bill C-79.

Some events were specific to certain jurisdictions. For instance, in Manitoba, respondents cited the new provincial *Victims' Bill of Rights* as the most significant event to have impacted service delivery that year. The Bill took effect August 31, 2001, but was phased in over time. In general, agencies in Manitoba reported a growth in clientele due to greater awareness by victims and increased funding. Also, victim services in British Columbia underwent program restructuring in 2002/03. Resources were reallocated, certain programs were changed, and the Crown-based victim/witness assistance program, offered through 40 locations by 35 full-time equivalents, was no longer funded. Respondents cited these as significant losses that displaced clients previously served by Crown-based agencies to the remaining agencies causing an influx of clients to services working under tighter finances.

While many services noted changes in funding as an issue affecting service delivery, Quebec was the only province to report a rise in funding, which resulted from an increase in provincial fine surcharge amounts²⁴ in 2002. Almost 60% of agencies in Quebec that responded to the survey reported receiving either more or new funding. This resulted in new staff, increased programming and more partnerships with government, all of which translated into an ability to serve more clients.

The survey also asked agencies to list the top three challenges that they will face in the delivery of services over the coming year and the steps the agency has taken or will take to address these challenges. The majority of respondents reported a lack of funding and a shortage of staff and volunteers as the main challenges. Efforts to manage these challenges include lobbying the government, completing more applications for funding, and increasing fundraising and community awareness.

Methodology

The Victim Services Survey was funded by Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues and was developed in consultation with federal, provincial and territorial ministries responsible for justice and victim services, and with a number of victim service agencies from across Canada. The objectives of the survey are to provide a profile of victim service agencies, information on the types of services offered, and some insight into the clients who use them through a snapshot of clients served on October 22, 2003. In addition, the survey collected standardized information from criminal injuries compensation and other financial benefit programs regarding applications for compensation and awards for victims of crime.

23. In addition to services for victims, law and legal organizations include those that provide legal services, promote crime prevention and public safety, rehabilitate offenders and protect the rights of consumers.

24. This is a surcharge imposed in addition to any other punishment for contravening, in this instance, provincial laws or regulations as specified by the province of Quebec. The funds collected are used to finance victim services.

Victim services are defined as agencies that provide direct services to primary or secondary victims of crime and are funded in whole or in part by a ministry responsible for justice matters. The survey covered system-based, police-based, court-based and community-based agencies, sexual assault centres, criminal injuries compensation programs and other financial benefit programs. Corrections-based victim services were not included in the survey because the National Parole Board was not in a position to report data. The survey frame, or list of possible participants, was created from existing public directories on services for victims of crime and from lists of victim service programs obtained from provincial and territorial ministries responsible for victim services.

The Victim Services Survey is a mail-out/mail-back paper questionnaire and is intended to be a census of all victim service agencies that fall within its scope. Although it was intended that each service location complete one form, for administrative reasons some lead agencies submitted one form representing data for all service locations under their administration. Of the 606 agencies eligible to respond, 425 forms were received representing data for 484 agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit schemes, resulting in a response rate of 81%. Of those deemed ineligible to respond, the majority were either closed or outside the scope of the survey.

To avoid undercounting the number of agencies represented by the survey forms returned, the analysis of services in this *Juristat* is based on the weighted number of 484 victim services and not the 425 forms returned. Information on criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit programs is based on the eight programs.

A total of 19 questionnaire forms reported data for multiple service agencies. These 19 forms represented data for 85 services and 3 criminal injuries compensation/financial benefits programs. The majority of the 85 services were reported by the following four lead services: Newfoundland and Labrador's Victim Services Head Office within the Department of Justice reported for 10 system-based service locations; RCMP Headquarters in Nova Scotia reported for 14 RCMP-based community service offices; New Brunswick's Victim Services Head Office within the Department of Public Safety reported for 14 system-based service locations, and; the one questionnaire submitted by Manitoba Justice²⁵ represents the work performed by 21 Crime Victim Service Workers who were housed in 8 RCMP detachments and 5 court offices, and was weighted to represent 13 service locations.

This method of responding to the survey affected the reliability of information regarding areas served by the victim service agencies. The survey asked respondents to indicate the areas they serve (i.e. urban/suburban, rural/village and/or reserve) and whether or not they are located on a reserve. However, when one form represents a number of service agencies each potentially serving different type of geographies, it is not feasible to distinguish which agency serves which types of geographic areas and the number of agencies located on a reserve. As a result, analysis of service agencies by the area(s) served is not presented.

Other Data Sources

General Social Survey conducts a survey on criminal victimization every five years, the last cycle being 1999. This last cycle involved a telephone interview with approximately 26,000 people 15 years of age and older living in the 10 provinces and asked specific questions about their fear of crime and whether or not they had been victims of specific personal and household crimes in the 12 months prior to the survey. The survey also measured women and men's experiences with spousal violence in the 5 years prior to the survey. The survey gathered detailed information about all victimizations measured, including reporting to the police and the use of social services.

The Transition Home Survey was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial and territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clients being served on a specific day. Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele in 1991/92. The survey was repeated with some changes in 1992/93, 1994/95, 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02 and 2003/04.

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2003, 122 police services in 9 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey. These data represent 61% of the national volume of crime. The data are primarily from urban police departments and are mostly from Ontario and Quebec. The data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.

The Census of Population is a survey of the total population of Canada conducted every five years. The census collects valuable information on race/ethnicity, language, religion, disability, sex, age, and marital status. The census was last conducted in 2001.

The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) is a post-censal survey designed to collect information on adults and children who have a disability, that is, whose everyday activities are limited because of a condition or health problem. Funded by Social Development Canada (formerly Human Resources Development Canada) and conducted by Statistics Canada, PALS provides essential information on the prevalence of various disabilities, the supports for persons with disabilities, their employment profile, their income and their participation in society. The sample consisted of 35,000 adults and 8,000 children and interviews were conducted between September 2001 and January 2002. PALS followed the groundwork laid by the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS), which was conducted by Statistics Canada about persons with disabilities in 1986 and 1991.

25. See footnote 3 for details on the restructuring of victim services in Manitoba in 2002 and 2003.

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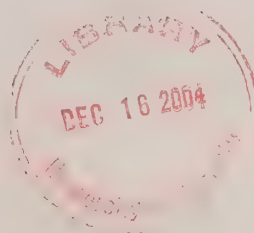
Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2003/04

by Mikhail Thomas¹

Highlights

- In 2003/04, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories (not including Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) disposed of nearly 450,000 cases involving more than one million charges. The number of cases disposed represents a drop of 3% from 2002/03.
- The mean elapsed time from first to last appearance for cases completed in adult criminal court was more than 7 months (220 days) in 2003/04, up 14% from the previous year (196 days).
- Offences with the longest average time to resolve included prostitution (350 days), other sexual offences (346 days), sexual assault (331 days), and fraud (315 days). The shortest mean elapsed times in 2003/04 occurred for the offence of unlawfully at large (106 days).
- The accused was found guilty in 58% of cases disposed in 2003/04, and 3% were acquitted. About one-third (36%) of cases were either stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, and 4% were otherwise terminated by the court (e.g., decisions of not criminally responsible, waived out of province/territory, Charter arguments or accused was found unfit to stand trial).
- A term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (46% of guilty cases). A term of imprisonment was imposed in 35% of cases, and a fine was imposed in 32% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varied across the country. In 2003/04, the highest rate of incarceration was in Prince Edward Island, where 58% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest rates of incarceration were in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, where prison was imposed in about one-quarter of cases.
- The 2003/04 availability of data represents a ten year time-series (1994/95 to 2003/04) for analysis at 80% coverage of the national adult criminal court caseload. Eight jurisdictions have reported to the Adult Criminal Court Survey every year during that period (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon). The number of cases processed in 2003/04 in the eight jurisdictions represented a 13% decrease since 1994/95.
- Cases are becoming more complex: 2003/04 marked the first time in ten years that multiple-charge cases represented the majority of cases disposed in adult criminal courts (for the eight jurisdictions).
- The percentage of guilty cases receiving probation has increased in the past ten years in the eight jurisdictions, from 37% in 1994/95 to 46% in 2003/04, while the percentage of guilty cases receiving fines has decreased (47% in 1994/95 to 32% in 2003/04). During the same period, the percentage of guilty cases sentenced to prison has remained stable (33% to 35%).

1. Analyst, Courts Program.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* summarises trends from adult provincial/territorial criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory (Box 1) which provided data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) for the 2003/04 reference year. In this *Juristat*, information is presented on the characteristics of cases and accused persons, the number of appearances, percentage of guilty cases, sentencing trends and related issues.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey. Data on disposed federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts.

At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec², Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. In addition, in 2003/04 Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS. These ten jurisdictions represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The information presented in this report covers only these ten participating jurisdictions.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. The charge information used to define the case is determined by the "most serious offence", as described in the methodology section. The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court.

Cases disposed in adult criminal court

In 2003/04, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories processed 445,650 cases involving 1,028,681 charges. The number of cases represents a drop of 3% from 2002/03.³

Most cases (88%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.⁴ *Crimes Against the Person* accounted for 27%, and *Crimes Against Property* accounted for a further 23% of the total number of cases (Table 1). *Administration of Justice* offences constituted 18% of all cases, while *Criminal Code Traffic* comprised 13% of total cases. *Other Criminal Code* (which includes weapons offences and disturbing the peace offences, among others) represented 7% of all cases. The remaining 12% of cases dealt with *Other Federal Statutes*.^{5,6}

About one-third of cases involved impaired driving, common assault or theft

In 2003/04, the most frequently occurring offences were impaired driving (11%) and common assault (11%).⁷ Theft represented 9% of all cases, while failure to comply

2. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of Criminal Code charges in that province) is not yet collected.

3. Revised figures for 2002/03. (See Methodology section for more details.)

4. For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures and most serious offence rules.

5. Other Federal Statutes refers to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Customs Act, the Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

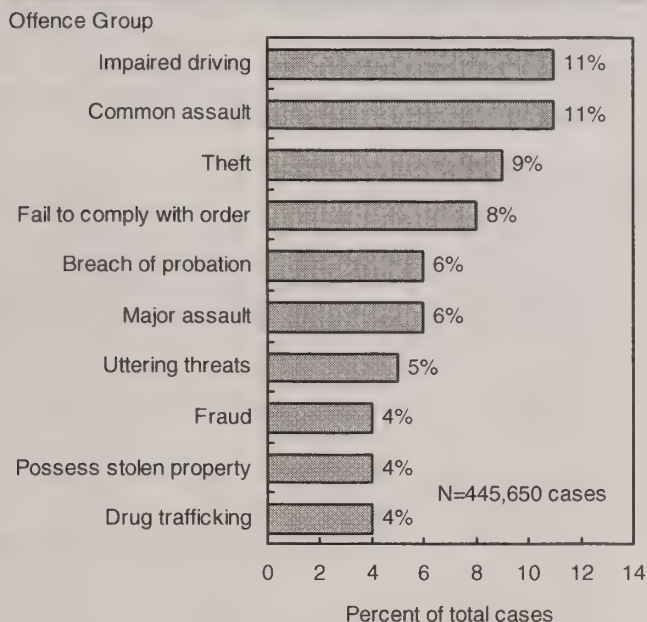
6. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

7. There are three levels of assault in the Criminal Code: Assault Level I, s. 266, Assault Level II, s. 267, Assault Level III, s. 268. Common assault (Assault Level I, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the Criminal Code. A 'common' assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the Criminal Code: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g. assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

with a court order (8%), breach of probation (6%), major assault (6%), and uttering threats (5%) were the next most frequently occurring offences. Taken together, all forms of sexual assault and other sexual offences accounted for less than 2% of the caseload in adult criminal courts. Homicide⁸ and attempted murder together accounted for approximately 0.2% of total cases (Table 1).

Figure 1

Ten most frequent offences disposed in adult criminal court, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹



Note: For more information on grouped offences see methodology section. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Demographic characteristics of persons appearing in court

Eight in ten adult criminal court cases involved males

Of all cases at the adult criminal court level, 83% involved a male accused, while 15% of cases involved a female accused. The sex of the accused was not recorded in less than 2% of the cases. The remaining cases (less than 1%) involved a company.

Although males accounted for the majority of cases, the distribution varied by type of offence. For *Crimes Against the Person* and *Criminal Code Traffic*, 85% of cases involved males, while males were involved in 78% of *Crimes Against Property*.

The few offences for which females accounted for significant percentages of cases included: prostitution (45%), fraud (29%), and theft (27%).

Younger adults accounted for almost one-third of court cases

Younger adults were over represented in court when compared to the age distribution of the adult population.⁹ In 2003/04, 18 to 24 year olds comprised 12% of the adult population,¹⁰ but accounted for 31% of all cases in adult criminal court.¹¹ Similarly, persons 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 28% of the total cases disposed in adult criminal court and 18% of the adult population (Table 2). This is consistent with police-reported statistics where rates of persons accused of violent and property offences peak among older teens and young adults and generally decline after age 25.

Case processing

An accused's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system, which was reaffirmed with the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Askov*.¹²

Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, which affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

Average elapsed time from first to last court appearance exceeds 7 months

Overall, the average elapsed time from first to last appearance was 220 days in 2003/04. Elapsed times varied considerably between jurisdictions. Average elapsed times were longest in Quebec (326 days), Ontario (214 days) and Nova Scotia (213 days) (Table 3). The longer average elapsed time in Quebec may be due in part to the absence of data from Quebec's municipal courts, which hear relatively less serious

8. First and second degree murder cases are under the exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. In jurisdictions not reporting superior courts data, the final decisions in these cases will be a transfer to another court level. While counting the total number of cases, missing coverage of superior courts leads to an under-estimate of the percentage of such cases resulting in the accused being found guilty.

9. Age represents the offender's age, in days, rounded to the nearest year, in the year the offence was alleged to have been committed.

10. Population estimates as of July 2003 for provinces and territories that participate in the ACCS.

11. Excludes cases where age of the accused was unknown and cases against companies.

12. 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay. Further clarification of the issue was provided by *R. v. Morin* (1992) 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgement in *Morin* suggested that an eight to ten month delay was tolerable between charges being laid and the subsequent trial in provincial court.

Criminal Code offences. In Prince Edward Island, the jurisdiction with the shortest mean processing time, cases were completed in an average of 44 days, with half of cases (54%) being disposed in one day.

Bench warrants increased case elapsed time

Bench warrants (i.e., arrest warrants) are usually issued when an individual fails to attend court, creating a situation where the court is simply unable to proceed with the case. Because it can often take a considerable amount of time to find and re-apprehend the accused, such cases can experience extensive processing delays.

In the 2003/04 fiscal year, 15% of completed cases had a bench warrant. During the reference year, cases with a bench warrant had a mean processing time of 551 days, compared to 163 days for cases without a bench warrant.

Jurisdictions with the highest percentage of cases having a bench warrant were British Columbia (24%), Alberta (21%) and Quebec (18%). However, average case elapsed times in British Columbia and Alberta were shorter than in Ontario, for example, where just 9% of cases had a bench warrant. There are additional factors that account for differences in average case elapsed time among jurisdictions, among them, the distribution of offences (more serious offences may take longer) and availability of court resources.¹³

Mean, Median and Mode

Mean, median and mode are measures of central tendency. The mean is the average value of all the data in the set. The median represents the midpoint of a sorted data set, where exactly half the dataset are above and half are below the midpoint. The mode is the most frequently observed value in the data set. There may be no mode if no value appears more than any other. There may also be two or more modes (e.g., bimodal, trimodal or multimodal).¹⁴

The median may be influenced by data sets that are not normally distributed. Sentencing data are not normally distributed and they tend to be multimodal (i.e., there are a number of frequently occurring sentencing values). For example, prison sentences are typically imposed for periods of weeks or months (e.g., 15 days, 30 days, 45 days, 180 days, etc.) and the movement of the median value from one cluster (i.e., one multimodal value) to another may suggest a large increase or decrease in sentencing trends when other measures of central tendency indicate a more subtle change. In addition, the trend line of median values may indicate stability when the change in the sentencing pattern is too small to cause the movement of the median value from one sentencing cluster (i.e., one multimodal value) to another. The mean is less affected by the clustering of observations in a data set but can be affected by the presence of extreme values. For this reason, usually both the mean and the median values have been presented in the tables for this *Juristat*.

Sixteen percent of cases took more than 1 year to resolve

The elapsed time was greater than 8 months and less than or equal to 12 months for 12% of cases, and more than one year in 16% of cases.

Some offences take longer to resolve than others. Prostitution had the longest mean elapsed time (350 days). Sexual assault and other sexual offences had a mean elapsed time of 331 and 346 days, respectively, in 2003/04, and fraud had a mean elapsed time of 315 days. The shortest mean elapsed time in 2003/04 occurred for the offence of unlawfully at large (106 days).

Multiple-charge cases,¹⁵ which are complex and often more serious, accounted for half (51%) of all cases in 2003/04. About one-quarter (27%) of all cases in 2003/04 involved two charges and 24% had three or more charges. The average elapsed time for multiple-charge cases was 229 days, versus 211 days for single-charge cases.

Overview of case outcomes

A majority of cases had at least one finding of guilt

The accused was found guilty in about six out of every ten cases (58%) disposed in adult criminal court in 2003/04 (Figure 2).^{16,17} In about one-third (36%) of the cases, the most serious offence was resolved by being stayed or withdrawn, 3% of the cases resulted in the acquittal¹⁸ of the accused, and 4% had other decisions (see Box 3).

Decisions in Adult Criminal Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Found Guilty** includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an individual has been found guilty but was given an absolute or conditional discharge.
- **Stay or Withdrawn** includes stay of proceedings, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping or interrupting criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.
- **Other decisions** includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a finding of guilt was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the "other decision" category also includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Percentage of guilty cases vary by offence group

Criminal Code Traffic offences had the highest percentage of guilty cases (70%) in 2003/04, whereas *Crimes Against the Person* has the lowest percentage of guilty cases (48%) (Figure 3).¹⁹

13. For more information on factors affecting case elapsed time, see J. Pereira and C. Grimes, Case Processing in Criminal Courts, 1999/00, *Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002*, vol. 22, no. 1.

14. See *Statistics Canada* 2004. "Measures of central tendency." About *Statistics: Power from Data!* www.statcan.ca (accessed July 9, 2004).

15. The classification of a case as a single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges in the case, not just those charges resulting in a finding of guilt.

16. Includes absolute and conditional discharges. After a guilty decision is rendered, the court may discharge the accused absolutely or on conditions specified in a probation order (C.C.C. s.730).

17. In jurisdictions not reporting superior courts data, the final decisions in some cases (approximately 2%) will be a transfer to another court level. This leads to a slight under-estimate of such cases resulting in the accused being found guilty.

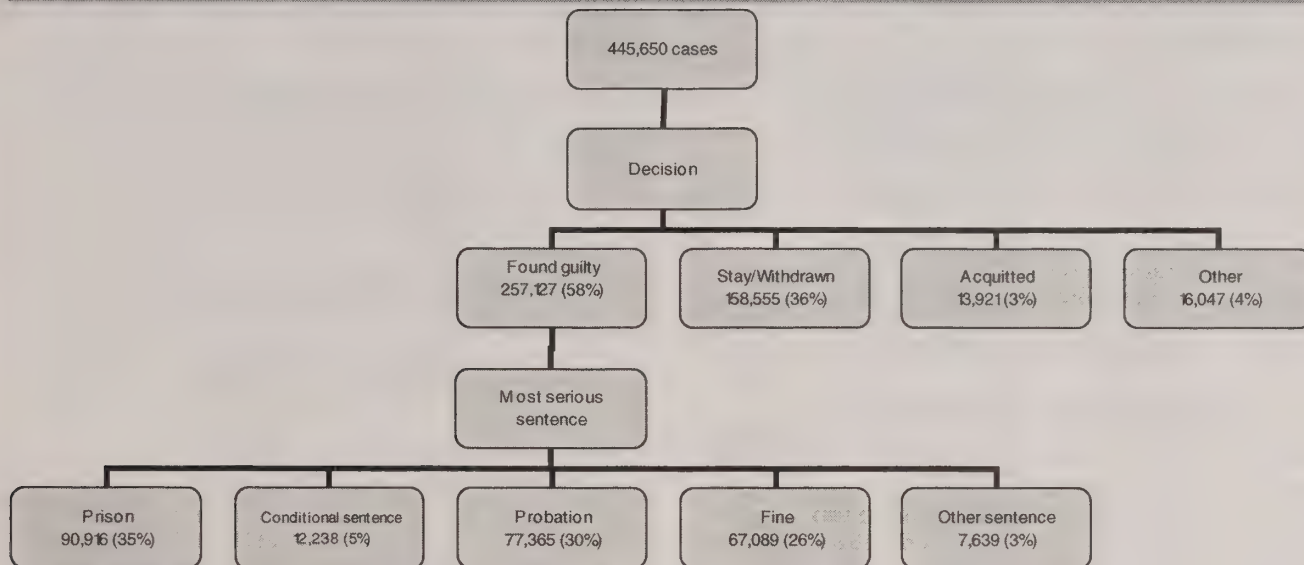
18. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably. This results in an undercounting of acquittals from that jurisdiction.

19. First and second degree murder cases are under the exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. In jurisdictions not reporting superior courts data, the final decisions in these cases will be a transfer to another court level. This leads to an under-estimate of the percentage of such cases resulting in the accused being found guilty.

Figure 2



Adult court processing of federal statute cases in provincial and selected superior courts, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹



Notes: Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharges at preliminary inquiry.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably. This results in an undercounting of acquittals from that jurisdiction.

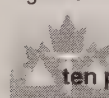
Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a guilty finding was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. Cases with an unknown sentence have been excluded from the sentence counts in this figure.

Conditional sentencing data was not collected in Quebec for 2003/04, resulting in an undercount of conditional sentences.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

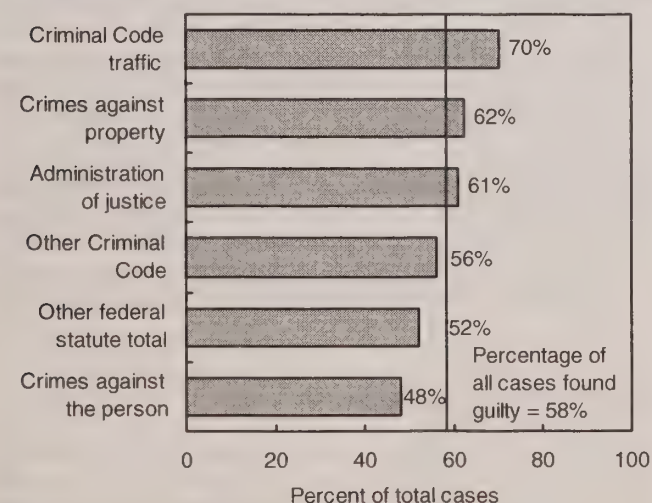
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 3



Percentage of cases found guilty, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹

Offence Group



Notes: Includes absolute and conditional discharges.

Please see Table 1 for the list of offences included in each category.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Several factors impact on differing percentage of cases found guilty for offence categories. For example, some crimes may be easier to prove than others, depending on the number and availability of witnesses and the volume and complexity of evidence presented by the Crown. As well, the number of charges the police lay for each incident will influence the number of charges coming into court and may have an impact on the distribution of case decisions if some charges are stayed or withdrawn.

The percentage of cases resulting in a guilty finding varies among offences in *Crimes Against the Person* category (Figure 4). The percentage of guilty cases range from 13% for attempted murder to 52% for common assault and 54% for robbery.

In contrast to *Crimes Against the Person*, there was considerable uniformity in the percentage of guilty cases for *Crimes Against Property*, ranging from 53% for possession of stolen property to 66% for break and enter and theft. On average, 62% of *Crimes Against Property* resulted in a finding of guilt (Figure 5).

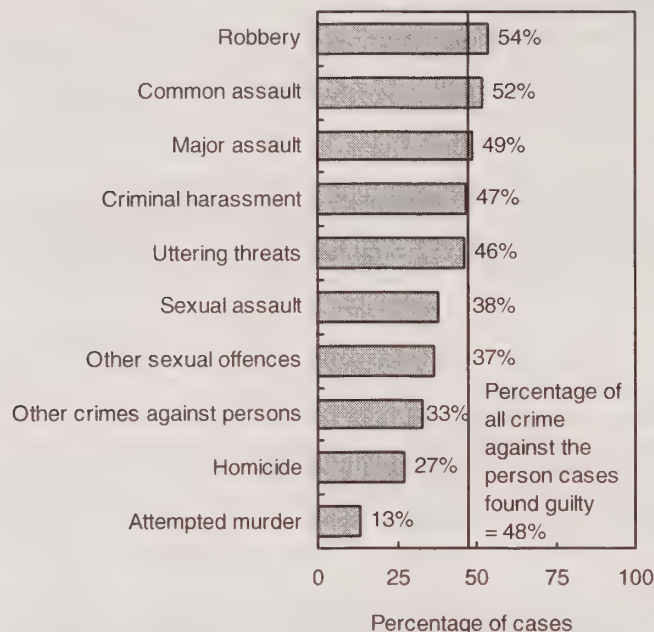
New Brunswick, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador have the highest percentage of guilty cases

Overall, the percentage of guilty cases was highest in New Brunswick (72%), Quebec (71%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (67%), and lowest in Nova Scotia (49%), Ontario (52%), and British Columbia (55%) (Table 4).

Figure 4

Percentage of cases found guilty with a crime against the person as the most serious offence in the case, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹

Offence Group



Notes: Includes absolute and conditional discharges.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section. First and second degree murder cases are under the exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. In jurisdictions not reporting superior courts data, the final decisions in these cases will be a transfer to another court level. While counting the total number of cases, missing coverage of superior courts leads to an under-estimate of the percentage of such cases resulting in the accused being found guilty.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

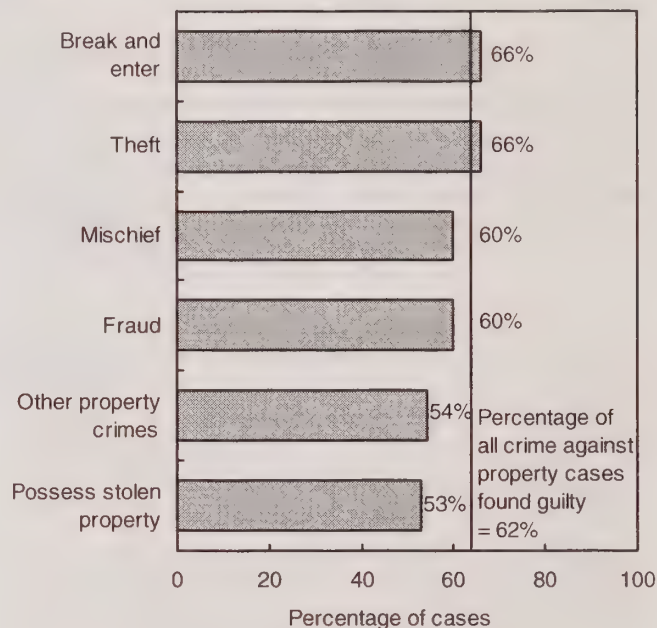
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

There are several possible factors that influence variations in the percentage of guilty cases. First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country, and this will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a finding of guilt is recorded. For example, 44% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario, whereas 11% were terminated this way in Quebec. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of guilty findings through increased vetting of charges. Fourthly, the percentage of guilty cases recorded is slightly lower in jurisdictions not providing superior court data. In these jurisdictions (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan) the final provincial court decision is committed for trial for those cases that proceed to superior court and do not return to provincial court (approximately 2% of caseload). Fifthly, the mix of offences can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular

Figure 5

Conviction rates for cases with a crime against property as the most serious offence in the case, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹

Offence Group



Notes: Includes absolute and conditional discharges.

Theft includes theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000 and other theft.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes (for example, sexual assault), which tend to be more difficult to prosecute, it may have a lower percentage of guilty cases. There may be differences in how jurisdictions negotiate pleas. Finally, the number of charges laid against an individual in relation to similar incidents may vary from one jurisdiction to another. For example, the same criminal incident may result in one charge (e.g., major assault) in one jurisdiction and two charges (e.g., major assault and attempted murder) in another jurisdiction. Charging practices may influence the percentage of guilty cases as indicated by the higher percentage of guilty cases with multiple charges. For instance in 2003/04 the percentage of cases found guilty for multiple charge cases was 68% compared to 47% for single charge cases.

Sentencing patterns

Determining the sentence to be imposed is one of the most challenging decisions for a court. At sentencing, the court will seek to impose a sentence that reflects the principles of the sentencing process, as outlined by section 718 of the *Criminal Code*.

Principal Sentencing Options in Canada²⁰

The main types of sanctions²¹ that can be imposed in Canada include the following:

- **Imprisonment:** This involves a term of custody served in a provincial/territorial or federal institution. Sentences of two years or more are served in a federal penitentiary, while terms of less than two years are served in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Sentences of 90 days or less can be served intermittently, which usually refers to serving the sentence on weekends. There are a number of offences, such as impaired driving, homicide and offences committed using a firearm, having minimum sentencing provisions outlined in the *Criminal Code* of Canada, which affect the nature and length of sentences imposed.
- **Conditional sentence:** The Sentencing Reform Bill C-41 was enacted in 1996 establishing a new community-based conditional sentencing option as an alternative to incarceration.²² With a conditional sentence of imprisonment, the execution of the prison sentence is suspended. In terms of seriousness, it is less serious than prison but more serious than a term of probation. Like probation, conditional sentences are served in the community under supervision and often include a number of conditions restricting the movement and activities of the offender. Unlike probation, however, violation of a condition of a conditional sentence can result in immediate suspension and imprisonment of the offender.
- **Probation:** An offender sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all offenders on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include performing community service, abstaining from the consumption of alcohol and attending treatment. Violating the conditions of a probation order is a criminal offence subject to possible prosecution that could result in a maximum sentence of imprisonment of two years. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence.
- **Fine:** When a fine is imposed, the offender is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. Unless the offender has been found guilty of an offence carrying a minimum term of imprisonment, or a maximum penalty of more than 5 years, an offender may be fined in lieu of other types of punishment.
- **Other types of sanctions:** In addition to these principal sentencing options, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options, such as restitution, compensation, or an absolute discharge.

Multiple sanctions may be imposed, but there are specific rules that govern the types of sentencing options that can be ordered in combination.

Probation was the most common sentence in 2003/04

Probation was the most frequent sentence, imposed in nearly half (46%) of all guilty cases. Prison was imposed in 35% of cases, and fines in 32% of all cases.²³ Approximately one-fifth of guilty cases (22%) received an absolute discharge, conditional discharge or a suspended sentence, 5% were given a conditional sentence²⁴ and 4% were ordered to pay restitution.

More than one third of guilty cases for *Crimes Against the Person* received prison

In 2003/04, 35% of cases where the accused was found guilty of *Crimes Against the Person* were sentenced to prison (Table 5). One factor to be considered when examining the use of incarceration in this category is that common assault – the least serious form of assault (level 1) with a relatively low use of incarceration (24%) – represented a large proportion (44%) of guilty cases in the *Crimes Against the Person* category. When common assault is removed, the remainder of the *Crimes Against the Person* category has a higher use of incarceration (44%).

Majority of offenders found guilty of break and enter were sentenced to prison

Offenders were sentenced to prison in 41% of guilty *Crimes Against Property* cases. Persons committing these offences tend to have longer criminal histories, and after the seriousness of the crime, an offender's criminal history is one of the most important factors considered by the court when determining the sanction to be imposed.²⁵ Prison was frequently used as a sanction for guilty cases in several *Crimes Against Property* offences. For example, 58% of guilty break and enter cases, 51% of possession of stolen property cases, and more than a third (39%) of theft and fraud (34%) cases resulted in a prison sentence.

Half of guilty cases (51%) for *Administration of Justice* offences were sentenced to prison. This category is dominated by offences where the accused did not comply with the orders of the court (e.g., breach of probation, and failure to comply with a court order).

Use of imprisonment varies considerably across the country

The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2003/04, the highest rate of incarceration was in Prince Edward Island, where 58% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest rates of incarceration were in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, where prison was imposed in about one-quarter of cases (Figure 6).

This variation in the use of incarceration reflects the influence of several factors. First, the mix of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes, it may also have a higher than average overall percentage of cases being sent to prison.

Second, courts in different parts of the country may use incarceration in different ways. In Prince Edward Island, for example, offenders are frequently sent to prison for their first impaired driving offence. Since this offence category accounts for 24% of guilty cases in the province, the overall proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average. Of all guilty impaired driving cases in Prince Edward Island, 91% resulted in incarceration. This is by far the highest in Canada followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at 29%. The lowest rate of incarceration for guilty cases of impaired driving occurred in British Columbia where 6% were incarcerated.

20. See B. Bélanger. 2001. *Sentencing in Adult Criminal Courts, 1999/00*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol.21 No.10. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

21. For more information on sentencing options and the nature of the 1996 sentencing reforms see J. Roberts and D. Cole (eds). 1999. *Making Sense of Sentencing*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

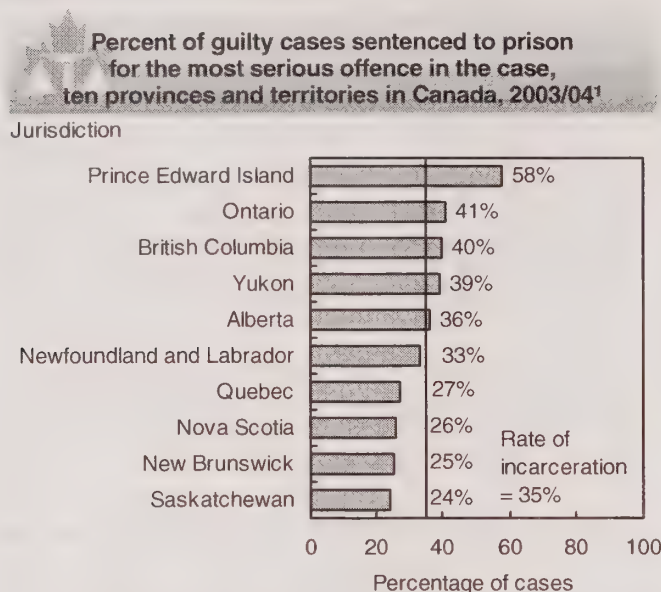
22. The Sentencing Reform Bill C-41 was enacted in 1996 establishing a new community-based conditional sentencing option as an alternative to incarceration. For more information see R. v. Proulx, 1999.

23. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

24. In 2003/04, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.

25. See M. Thomas, H. Hurley, and C. Grimes. 2002. *Pilot Analysis of Recidivism among Convicted Youth and Young Adults – 1999/00*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol.22 No.9. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Figure 6



Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of Criminal Code charges in that province) are not available.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Most terms of imprisonment are relatively short

Over half (57%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 2003/04 were one month or less, while an additional one-third (31%) were for periods from greater than one month up to six months.^{26,27} Custodial sentences of greater than six months but less than two years were imposed in 8% of guilty cases with prison, and 4% were sentenced to custody for two years or more (Figure 7).²⁸

Use of probation

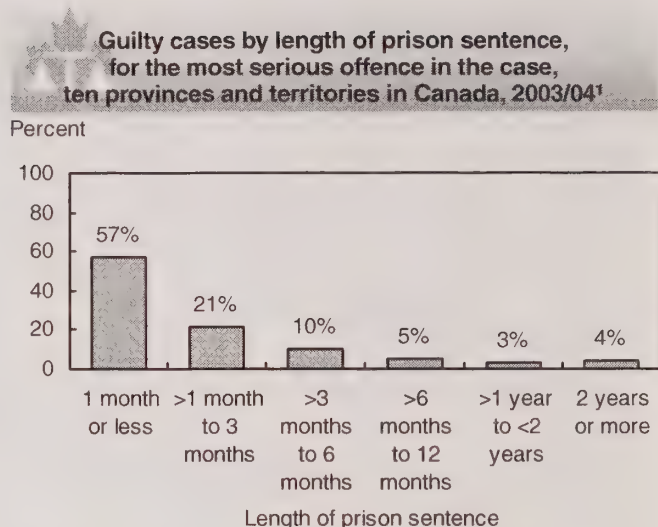
In 2003/04, *Crimes Against the Person* were most likely to include a term of probation (Table 5). Three-quarters (76%) of guilty cases in this category received probation, compared to 55% of offenders guilty of a *Crime Against Property*. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of cases involving *Crimes Against the Person* also received a term of imprisonment along with a probation order. Of the 43,857 guilty *Crimes Against the Person* cases that received probation in 2003/04, 28% also received a prison sentence.

In 2003/04, the most common probation term length was "greater than six months to one year" (48% of guilty cases with probation) (Figure 8).²⁹ One-third (32%) of cases were greater than 12 months to two years in length. Fourteen per cent were for six months or less, and 6% of probation terms were for a period of more than two years. (The statutory limit on a term of probation is three years.)

Use of fines

In 2003/04, one-third (32%) of guilty cases were given a fine (Table 5). The mean amount of fine was \$768. Guilty cases where a fine was most frequently imposed were impaired driving (86%),³⁰ drug possession (52%), other *Criminal Code*

Figure 7

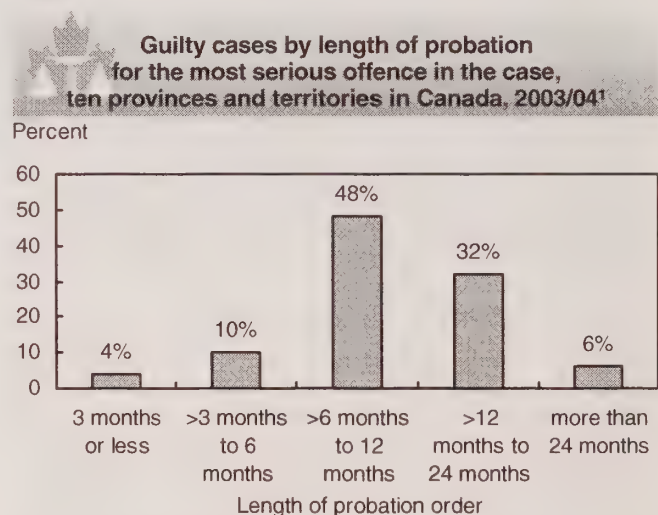


Note: Time in custody prior to sentencing is taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Excludes cases where the length of prison sentence was unknown.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 8



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Excludes cases where the length of probation sentence was unknown.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

26. Excludes cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.

27. Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

28. Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

29. Excludes cases where the length of probation was unknown.

30. C.C.C. s.255 (1)(a)(i) mandates a minimum fine of \$600 for a first impaired driving offence.

Superior court statistics, selected provinces and territories, 2003/04

In 2003/04, data on superior courts³¹ were collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Superior courts hear indictable offences, and are the only courts with jurisdiction to try first and second degree murder charges, which (along with infanticide and manslaughter) account for 4% of the superior court caseload. For charges other than the most serious indictable offences,³² the accused can elect the mode of trial.³³ This text box summarizes case processing, case outcomes, and sentencing in superior courts, and compares these statistics with similar statistics for provincial courts.

Case Processing: In 2003/04, 2,858 cases (2%) were completed in superior court in the six reporting jurisdictions. The most common cases were *Crimes Against the Person* (46% of superior court cases), followed by *Other Federal Statute* (25%) and *Crimes Against Property* (14%). *Other Criminal Code* cases accounted for 9% of superior court cases, and a small proportion of cases involved *Criminal Code Traffic* (5%) and *Administration of Justice* (2%) matters.³⁴

Although superior court caseload has a higher proportion of *Crimes Against the Person* cases than provincial court (46% and 23% respectively), superior courts did dispose of cases in each offence category. Half of the homicide³⁵ cases (53%) for the six jurisdictions were completed in superior court in 2003/04. One in five of attempted murder cases (22%) and sexual assault cases (22%) were completed in superior court.

In 2003/04, superior court cases took longer to process than provincial court cases. In five of the six jurisdictions reporting superior court data,³⁶ the mean elapsed time for cases completed in superior court (i.e. the average time from the first appearance in provincial court to the last appearance in superior court) was thirteen months (399 days), compared to 182 days for cases completed in provincial court in these jurisdictions. For each offence type completed in superior court, the mean elapsed times were considerably longer in superior court than provincial court (Table 6). The complexity of cases as well as the procedures used to elect trial in superior court, scheduling a trial, and jury selection are some of the factors contributing to the longer case processing

times. Although superior courts process relatively few cases, the inclusion of superior court data in the ACCS slightly increased overall case processing times for the five jurisdictions.

Case Outcomes: Almost one-half (47%) of cases completed in superior court in the six reporting jurisdictions were found guilty, somewhat lower than for provincial court cases (58%) in the same jurisdictions in 2003/04. The accused was acquitted in 15% of the cases completed in superior court in 2003/04 and in 2% of the cases completed in provincial court in these jurisdictions.

The lower percentage of guilty cases and the higher acquittal rate in superior courts may reflect the fact that these courts hear a larger proportion of cases involving serious offences than provincial court. Serious violent offences may sometimes be more difficult to prove in court as a result of a number of factors including the number and availability of witnesses, the number of charges in the case and the complexity of evidence presented by the Crown. The percentage of cases found guilty for some offences (e.g., robbery) is slightly lower in superior courts than in provincial courts.

Sentencing: The majority (51%) of guilty cases in superior court resulted in a prison sentence, and nearly one-third (31%) resulted in a conditional sentence in 2003/04. Probation was a sanction in 28% of guilty cases, and 12% of cases resulted in a fine.³⁷ Compared to provincial court, prison is more frequently used in superior court for offences under *Crimes Against the Person*. For other types of offences (*Other Federal Statute*, *Crimes Against Property*), the frequency of prison sentences differs little between superior and provincial courts.

In 2003/04, cases with a prison sentence in superior court had a mean sentence length of 1,015 days (nearly three years).³⁸ In provincial court, the mean prison sentence length was 96 days. For all offence groups, the mean and median prison sentence lengths were considerably higher in superior court than provincial court (Table 7).

traffic (42%), disturbing the peace (40%), and *Other Federal Statutes* (64%) such as the Income Tax Act.

Trends

The 2003/04 reference period represents the first time that a ten year time-series (1994/95 to 2003/04) is available from the ACCS for analysis at 80% coverage of the national adult criminal court caseload. This section reviews trends³⁹ for the eight jurisdictions that have participated every year in the ACCS during that ten year period. The eight jurisdictions are: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. Statistics are presented for each of the past five years (2002/03 – 1999/00) with the addition of 1994/95 data to provide a longer term (ten year) perspective. These data are available in Table 8 through Table 11 at the end of the publication.

Number of cases on downward trend

The number of adult criminal court cases processed in 2003/04 decreased to 380,978, down by 4% over the previous year. While the 2003/04 decrease follows two consecutive years of increases, the longer-term trend has been downward. In fact, the number of cases disposed in 2003/04 represents a 13% decrease over the number of cases completed in 1994/95.

This downward trend generally corresponds to the pattern in police-recorded crime statistics reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.⁴⁰ From 1994 to 2003, there was a 9% drop in the number of adults charged in the same eight jurisdictions that report to the ACCS.

Administration of Justice offences represent a growing share of caseload

Administration of Justice offences (e.g., breach of probation, and failure to comply with a court order) steadily increased their share of the caseload over the past ten years. The offence group accounted for 19% of all cases in 2003/04, versus 16% five years ago, and 14% ten years ago (Table 8).

31. Superior court refers to Court of Queen's Bench in New Brunswick, and Alberta, and the Supreme Court in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Yukon.

32. Superior court has absolute jurisdiction over the indictable offences listed in section 469 of the Criminal Code. These offences include murder, treason, and intimidating Parliament, among others. Provincial court has absolute jurisdiction over the offences listed in C.C.C. s. 553, which includes failure to comply with probation order, driving while disqualified, theft (other than theft of cattle), etc. All other indictable offences are eligible for election to superior court by the accused.

33. It may also be possible for superior courts to hear summary offences when they have been transferred due to the election of an indictable offence in the same case.

34. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

35. Homicide includes murder (1st and 2nd degree), infanticide, and manslaughter.

36. Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance for cases completed in superior court. As a result Prince Edward Island data were removed from this portion of the analysis.

37. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

38. Excludes cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.

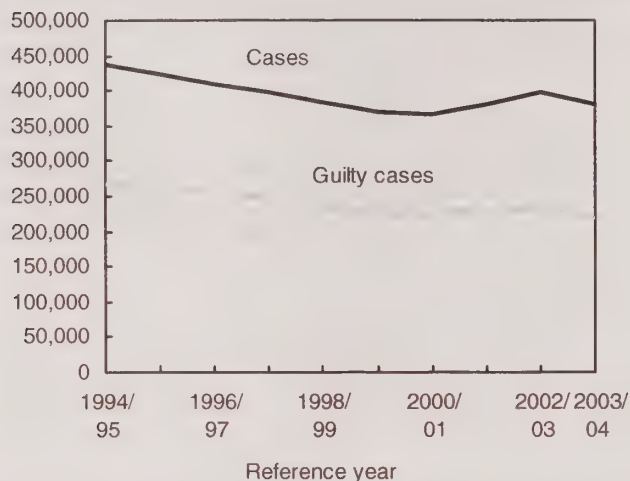
39. Incorporates data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

40. See M. Wallace 2004. *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol. 24 No.6.* Ottawa: Statistics Canada. See also Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system in the methodology section for an overview of the differences between Crime Statistics and Adult Criminal Court Statistics.

Figure 9

Number of total cases and guilty cases disposed in adult criminal court, eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95 to 2003/04¹

Number of cases



Notes: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. Incorporates data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

1. This figure does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Meanwhile, the proportion of Criminal Code *Traffic* cases has fallen. These offences constituted 13% of the caseload in 2003/04, down from 17% in 1994/95.

Cases are becoming more complex

Multiple-charge cases represented 51% of the caseload in 2003/04. This is the first time over the ten year reference period that these more complex cases represented a majority of the cases disposed in adult criminal courts. Multiple-charge cases accounted for just under one-half (49%) of cases in each of the three years preceding 2003/04 and 48% in 1999/00. In 1994/95, multiple-charge cases were 44% of the caseload.

Cases require more appearances and more time to process

In 2003/04, the average number of appearances was 5.9, up from 5.7 in the previous year. Ten years ago the figure was 4.1. This may suggest that the demand placed on court resources has increased over time.

Case elapsed times continue their long term trend toward increased duration. Further, increases in elapsed times appear to have accelerated in the past four years. Overall, the average case elapsed time increased from 137 days ten years ago to 226 days in 2003/04.⁴¹ The mean processing time for the least complex cases, those with a single charge, increased from 121 to 215 days over the same period, while the processing time for multiple-charge cases increased from 157 days to

236 days. The convergence between elapsed times for single- and multiple-charge cases suggests that factors other than number of charges in the case have become important in predicting case processing time.

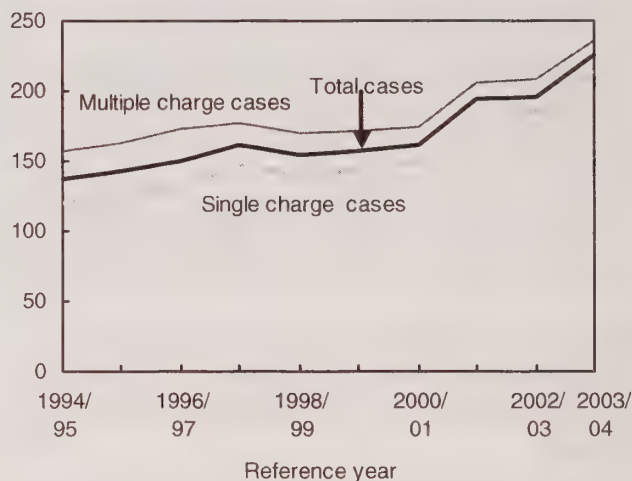
Guilty cases sentenced to prison have remained stable

At 35% the proportion of guilty cases sentenced to prison in 2003/04 was unchanged from the previous year. The proportion has not varied much over time but was slightly higher in 2003/04 than it was a decade ago (33%).

Figure 10

Average elapsed time from first to last appearance in adult criminal court, eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95 to 2003/04¹

Average elapsed time (days)



Note: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent 2% of to incorporate data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

1. This figure does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In 2003/04 the mean prison sentence length was 114 days, about the same as ten years ago (115 days) (Table 9). However, these figures conceal changes in mean prison sentence-lengths for some offences. The mean prison sentence-length for Other sexual offences (mostly sexual offences against children) rose from 412 days in 1994/95 to 529 days in 2003/04. To some extent, this may reflect fewer offenders being incarcerated in the less serious cases of other sexual offences. Judges may be sentencing these offenders to conditional sentences, instead. In 2003/04, 16% of convicted other sexual offences cases resulted in a conditional sentence, up from 13% in 1999/00.

41. The 2003/04 mean case elapsed time for the eight jurisdictions may vary from those in Table 3 because Table 3 includes New Brunswick and British Columbia, for which long-term trend information is not available from the ACCS.

Over the past ten years, Quebec consistently has had the longest mean prison sentence length of the eight jurisdictions. This is understandable based on the fact that data from municipal courts, which hear relatively less serious *Criminal Code* offences, are not collected by the survey. The rate of incarceration also is among the lowest in Quebec, which means that those offences resulting in prison sentences there tend to be concentrated among the most serious.

The use of probation has increased

The proportion of cases receiving probation as a sanction has been stable at 46% over the past two years. However, over the ten year reference period, there has been a marked shift towards an increased use of probation orders and a decreased prevalence of fines. Five years ago, 43% of guilty cases received probation, while ten years ago the figure was 37%. On the other hand, the mean length of probation orders generally has been stable around 473 days over the past decade (Table 10).

Imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing

Since 1994/95, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing. In 2003/04, 32% of guilty cases were given a fine, down from 33% the year before and from 47% ten years ago. The mean amount of fine, which was \$492 in 1994/95, increased to \$640 in 2003/04 (Table 11).⁴²

Several factors may be responsible for this shift. For example, Bill C-41 (in force September, 1996) amended the *Criminal Code* to direct judges to impose fines only after ascertaining if the offender has the ability to pay [CCC s. 734(2)]. This amendment may have encouraged greater use of probation in lieu of fines for offenders that would otherwise be at risk of incarceration due to default of fine payment. Additionally, some offences (i.e., *Criminal Code Traffic*) are more likely to result in fines than others, so changes over time in the caseload composition (i.e., fewer *Criminal Code Traffic* cases) will tend to affect the proportion of all guilty cases receiving fines. There was a four percentage point drop in *Criminal Code Traffic* cases over the ten year reference period.

Methodology

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Manitoba is not included in the survey for any year. Data from Nunavut were included as part of the Northwest Territories prior to April 1, 1999; however, Nunavut has not reported to the ACCS since the creation of the territory. Data from the Northwest Territories are not available for 1996/97, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, or 2003/04, and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of

data in 1999/00. New Brunswick and British Columbia began reporting to the ACCS in 2001/02. There is slight under-coverage (less than 5%) of completed cases in British Columbia for 2001/02. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of *Criminal Code* charges in that province) is not yet collected. For Newfoundland and Labrador, the first 3 quarters of fiscal 1994/95 include the St. Johns and Clarendville court locations only (with an estimated coverage of 45% of federal statute cases). Finally, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts.

The absence of data from all but six superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. Similarly, the absence of superior court data from certain jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of case elapsed times across Canada. Again, this is due to the most serious cases being processed in superior courts. More serious cases involve a defence election, may involve a preliminary inquiry, and jury selection, and therefore may require more appearances and take more time to complete. While these limitations are important, comparisons from one year to another are possible if the reporting jurisdictions used in the comparison are held constant.

Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

The Adult Criminal Court Survey counts a charge more than once under any of the following circumstances:

- a charge is stayed in one time period and restarted in another time period;
- a charge is stayed and subsequently restarted with different case identifiers; or,
- a charge is transferred from one province/territory to another.

Transfers

The commencement of data collection from superior courts in 1998/99 resulted in changes to the data collection and processing methods used by the ACCS. In the jurisdictions providing superior court data (i.e., Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon), changes in court level – either committals for trial in superior court, or re-elections to provincial court – are not captured as

42. Dollar amounts calculated on a one year base (1992 = 100.) that adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable. For more information see Statistics Canada catalogue no. 62-557, *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index*. Fine amounts given in current dollars were, respectively, \$502 and \$783.

final decisions for the reference period.⁴³ In contrast, elections to superior court are counted as final provincial court decisions in jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan). This results in an under count of cases with a finding of guilt in these jurisdictions.

Most serious offence and decision rules

When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged 6) not criminally responsible 7) other, 8) transfer of court jurisdiction. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to an offence seriousness scale, which is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on guilty charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick, for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system

Policing

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics conducts the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This survey collects data on the crimes reported to the police. Counts from the UCR survey for offences cleared by charge are not comparable to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) figures for charges disposed of. There are many reasons for this. In part, it is the result of scoring rules used by the UCR survey. The UCR survey counts violent offences in terms of the number of victims in the incident; non-violent offences are counted in terms of the number of separate incidents. Furthermore, the published UCR figures include offences involving youths, while the ACCS case counts include only the very few youth offences that have been transferred to adult court (<100 per year). Moreover, information is captured in the UCR with the laying of a charge, while in the ACCS information is captured upon the court rendering a decision. This time lag in data collection between the two surveys further affects comparability. For more information on the UCR survey, see *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol. 24 No. 6.

Corrections

The number of cases sentenced to correctional programs (e.g.,

probation, sentenced custody, conditional sentence, etc.), as reported by the ACCS, will differ from the number of actual admissions to correctional programs reported in the Adult Correctional Services survey (ACS) conducted by the CCJS. A key reason is that the ACCS uses court cases as its primary measure, which reflects only those sentences occurring on the same sentencing date. The ACS survey, however, measures the number of persons admitted to correctional programs based on the concept of aggregate sentence. Sentence aggregation takes place in correctional services when, for the purpose of sentence administration, multiple overlapping sentences of the same type (i.e., consecutive or concurrent) are combined into a single cumulative sentence, which is then counted by the ACS as a single admission. Therefore, if the courts sentence a person to custody on unrelated matters, on two different sentencing dates (counted twice by the ACCS), but the period of incarceration is overlapping, those two periods would be counted as one admission to sentenced custody in the ACS with the sentence length calculated based upon the cumulative (aggregate) sentence.

Other sources of difference between the ACCS and ACS surveys are the inclusion of admissions for fine default and violation of conditional sentence in the corrections data whereas these data are not included in the courts data because they are not related to the disposition (i.e., breach of conditional sentence is not a criminal offence). As well, the number of sentenced admissions reported to the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced in superior courts for jurisdictions supplying superior court data. In 2003/04, only six jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon) reported superior court data to the ACCS.

For more information on the ACS survey, see *Adult correctional services in Canada, 2002-2003*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol. 24 No. 10.

Data Revisions

Revisions for 2000/01 and prior years, effective with the 2001/02 ACCS data release, were the result of changes made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. Also, applications under C.C.C. s. 810, s. 810.01, s. 810.1, and s. 810.2 (peace bond applications) have been excluded as they are not criminal charges. Overall, the exclusions reduced the number of charges in 2003/04 by 17,539 (-1.7%).

ACCS data for 2002/03 were revised as of this *Juristat* due to a data processing error. Revisions primarily affected the 2002/03 case count for Quebec. In total, the original 2002/03 case count published was 467,494 cases, up 3.3% from 2001/02. The revised 2002/03 case count is 459,427 cases, up 1.5%. For Quebec, the original 2002/03 case count was 79,756 cases, up 13.8% from 2001/02. The revised 2002/03 case count for Quebec is 72,200 cases, up 3.0%. While 2002/03 case counts changed, the revisions did not substantially affect key distributions (e.g., percentage of cases found guilty, percentage of guilty cases sentenced to custody, etc.), at either the total level or Quebec level.

43. The election is captured as a final decision if the election is the result for the final appearance record in the provincial/territorial court system during the data reference period. This situation is only possible near the end of the reference period when an accused elects to change their court level and the ACCS extracts court data prior to the next appearance of the accused in superior court or in provincial/territorial court on re-election from superior court.

Table 1

Appearances, charges and cases in adult criminal court,
ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹

Offence group	Charge appearances		Total charges		Total cases	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences	6,897,133	100.0	1,028,681	100.0	445,650	100.0
Criminal Code total	6,034,696	87.5	913,480	88.8	393,786	88.4
Crimes against the person	1,539,179	22.3	207,493	20.2	118,692	26.6
Homicide	11,516	0.2	660	0.1	529	0.1
Attempted murder	9,101	0.1	748	0.1	418	0.1
Robbery	109,782	1.6	10,667	1.0	5,892	1.3
Sexual assault	94,680	1.4	9,743	0.9	4,476	1.0
Other sexual offences	56,481	0.8	5,587	0.5	2,416	0.5
Major assault	348,232	5.0	44,154	4.3	26,580	6.0
Common assault	499,983	7.2	78,597	7.6	49,206	11.0
Uttering threats	291,638	4.2	42,738	4.2	22,170	5.0
Criminal harassment	50,387	0.7	6,976	0.7	3,759	0.8
Other crimes against the person	67,379	1.0	7,623	0.7	3,246	0.7
Crimes against property	1,899,286	27.5	269,630	26.2	103,822	23.3
Theft	482,786	7.0	80,014	7.8	40,629	9.1
Break and enter	238,820	3.5	31,660	3.1	13,350	3.0
Fraud	520,805	7.6	64,670	6.3	19,211	4.3
Mischief	208,107	3.0	33,036	3.2	11,232	2.5
Possess stolen property	424,776	6.2	57,128	5.6	18,180	4.1
Other property crimes	23,992	0.3	3,122	0.3	1,220	0.3
Administration of justice	1,187,817	17.2	216,614	21.1	81,640	18.3
Fail to appear	121,505	1.8	23,830	2.3	11,873	2.7
Breach of probation	430,371	6.2	75,587	7.3	28,599	6.4
Unlawfully at large	32,529	0.5	7,466	0.7	3,146	0.7
Fail to comply with order	563,133	8.2	104,307	10.1	35,578	8.0
Other administration of justice	40,279	0.6	5,424	0.5	2,444	0.5
Other Criminal Code	748,082	10.8	96,534	9.4	30,211	6.8
Weapons	255,366	3.7	28,944	2.8	6,456	1.4
Prostitution	31,492	0.5	4,041	0.4	2,349	0.5
Disturbing the peace	30,101	0.4	6,070	0.6	2,820	0.6
Residual Criminal Code	431,123	6.3	57,479	5.6	18,586	4.2
Criminal Code traffic	660,332	9.6	123,209	12.0	59,421	13.3
Impaired driving	530,533	7.7	104,152	10.1	49,282	11.1
Other Criminal Code traffic	129,799	1.9	19,057	1.9	10,139	2.3
Other federal statute total	862,437	12.5	115,201	11.2	51,864	11.6
Drug possession	206,146	3.0	30,112	2.9	15,822	3.6
Drug trafficking	284,959	4.1	30,742	3.0	15,985	3.6
Youth Criminal Justice Act	25,257	0.4	3,758	0.4	1,257	0.3
Residual federal statutes	346,075	5.0	50,589	4.9	18,800	4.2

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Cases by age of accused, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹

Offence group	Total cases	Age group									
		18 to 24	%	25 to 34	%	35 to 44	%	45 to 54	%	55 plus	%
		#		#		#		#		#	
Total offences	437,866	134,161	30.6	122,989	28.1	109,596	25.0	50,248	11.5	20,872	4.8
Criminal Code total	387,902	115,674	29.8	109,647	28.3	98,976	25.5	45,016	11.6	18,589	4.8
Crimes against the person	116,485	29,166	25.0	34,066	29.2	32,994	28.3	14,392	12.4	5,867	5.0
Homicide	499	208	41.7	133	26.7	94	18.8	40	8.0	24	4.8
Attempted murder	384	152	39.6	111	28.9	77	20.1	25	6.5	19	4.9
Robbery	5,814	2,925	50.3	1,583	27.2	999	17.2	267	4.6	40	0.7
Sexual assault	4,397	817	18.6	1,204	27.4	1,300	29.6	622	14.1	454	10.3
Other sexual offences	2,383	340	14.3	606	25.4	734	30.8	344	14.4	359	15.1
Major assault	26,129	8,287	31.7	7,678	29.4	6,378	24.4	2,791	10.7	995	3.8
Common assault	48,203	10,700	22.2	14,635	30.4	14,309	29.7	6,265	13.0	2,294	4.8
Uttering threats	21,848	4,390	20.1	6,129	28.1	6,991	32.0	3,063	14.0	1,275	5.8
Criminal harassment	3,662	540	14.7	987	27.0	1,244	34.0	619	16.9	272	7.4
Other crimes against the person	3,166	807	25.5	1,000	31.6	868	27.4	356	11.2	135	4.3
Crimes against property	102,569	36,848	35.9	28,422	27.7	23,624	23.0	9,992	9.7	3,683	3.6
Theft	40,196	12,321	30.7	10,443	26.0	10,300	25.6	5,014	12.5	2,118	5.3
Break and enter	13,194	6,354	48.2	3,629	27.5	2,389	18.1	691	5.2	131	1.0
Fraud	18,853	5,319	28.2	6,053	32.1	4,939	26.2	1,961	10.4	581	3.1
Mischief	11,127	4,733	42.5	2,902	26.1	2,212	19.9	933	8.4	347	3.1
Possess stolen property	17,999	7,498	41.7	5,131	28.5	3,598	20.0	1,307	7.3	465	2.6
Other property crimes	1,200	623	51.9	264	22.0	186	15.5	86	7.2	41	3.4
Administration of justice	80,723	27,863	34.5	23,753	29.4	19,648	24.3	7,255	9.0	2,204	2.7
Fail to appear	11,741	4,525	38.5	3,473	29.6	2,542	21.7	928	7.9	273	2.3
Breach of probation	28,236	9,552	33.8	8,634	30.6	7,002	24.8	2,397	8.5	651	2.3
Unlawfully at large	3,103	904	29.1	1,084	34.9	825	26.6	237	7.6	53	1.7
Fail to comply with order	35,256	12,071	34.2	9,881	28.0	8,721	24.7	3,459	9.8	1,124	3.2
Other administration of justice	2,387	811	34.0	681	28.5	558	23.4	234	9.8	103	4.3
Other Criminal Code	29,026	9,975	34.4	8,152	28.1	6,439	22.2	2,992	10.3	1,468	5.1
Weapons	6,343	2,391	37.7	1,586	25.0	1,231	19.4	698	11.0	437	6.9
Prostitution	2,329	468	20.1	729	31.3	679	29.2	296	12.7	157	6.7
Disturbing the peace	2,785	1,154	41.4	696	25.0	603	21.7	254	9.1	78	2.8
Residual Criminal Code	17,569	5,962	33.9	5,141	29.3	3,926	22.3	1,744	9.9	796	4.5
Criminal Code traffic	59,099	11,822	20.0	15,254	25.8	16,271	27.5	10,385	17.6	5,367	9.1
Impaired driving	49,019	9,359	19.1	12,245	25.0	13,557	27.7	9,075	18.5	4,783	9.8
Other Criminal Code traffic	10,080	2,463	24.4	3,009	29.9	2,714	26.9	1,310	13.0	584	5.8
Other federal statute total	49,964	18,487	37.0	13,342	26.7	10,620	21.3	5,232	10.5	2,283	4.6
Drug possession	15,652	7,095	45.3	4,359	27.8	2,977	19.0	1,058	6.8	163	1.0
Drug trafficking	15,553	4,957	31.9	4,860	31.2	3,716	23.9	1,544	9.9	476	3.1
Youth Criminal Justice Act	1,226	1,220	99.5	3	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2	0	0.0
Residual federal statutes	17,533	5,215	29.7	4,120	23.5	3,926	22.4	2,628	15.0	1,644	9.4
Population²	23,672,841	2,935,644	12.4	4,180,553	17.7	5,012,384	21.2	4,521,506	19.1	7,022,754	29.7

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age represents the offender's age, in days, rounded to the nearest year, in the year the offence was alleged to have been committed.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Excludes cases where age of the accused was unknown or under 18 at the time of the offence and cases against companies.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

2. Population estimates as of July 2003 for jurisdictions that participate in the ACCS.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

**Mean and median elapsed time to complete a case in adult criminal court,
cases by jurisdiction and by case elapsed time,
ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹**

Jurisdiction	Total cases # %		Mean (in days)	Median (in days)	Elapsed time (in days) from first to last court appearance							
					One day to 4 months		>4 months to 8 months		>8 months to 12 months		>12 months	
					#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	445,650	100.0	220	110	233,566	52.4	85,226	19.1	54,407	12.2	72,451	16.3
with bench warrant²	65,609	14.7	551	295	14,853	22.6	13,170	20.1	10,220	15.6	27,366	41.7
without bench warrant	380,041	85.3	163	89	218,713	57.5	72,056	19.0	44,187	11.6	45,085	11.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	7,041	100.0	185	86	4,047	57.5	1,483	21.1	750	10.7	761	10.8
with bench warrant	519	7.4	560	233	143	27.6	121	23.3	79	15.2	176	33.9
without bench warrant	6,522	92.6	155	78	3,904	59.9	1,362	20.9	671	10.3	585	9.0
Prince Edward Island ³	1,644	100.0	44	1	1,509	91.8	105	6.4	21	1.3	9	0.5
with bench warrant	114	6.9	77	31	90	78.9	14	12.3	6	5.3	4	3.5
without bench warrant	1,530	93.1	42	1	1,419	92.7	91	5.9	15	1.0	5	0.3
Nova Scotia	13,977	100.0	213	120	7,065	50.5	2,841	20.3	1,906	13.6	2,165	15.5
with bench warrant	2,059	14.7	540	309	439	21.3	385	18.7	338	16.4	897	43.6
without bench warrant	11,918	85.3	156	94	6,626	55.6	2,456	20.6	1,568	13.2	1,268	10.6
New Brunswick	9,463	100.0	147	72	6,093	64.4	1,896	20.0	708	7.5	766	8.1
with bench warrant	954	10.1	363	204	296	31.0	244	25.6	138	14.5	276	28.9
without bench warrant	8,509	89.9	123	63	5,797	68.1	1,652	19.4	570	6.7	490	5.8
Quebec	73,234	100.0	326	168	30,415	41.5	14,725	20.1	9,630	13.1	18,464	25.2
with bench warrant	13,339	18.2	795	446	1,684	12.6	1,958	14.7	1,982	14.9	7,715	57.8
without bench warrant	59,895	81.8	222	129	28,731	48.0	12,767	21.3	7,648	12.8	10,749	17.9
Ontario	196,198	100.0	214	120	98,798	50.4	37,458	19.1	27,322	13.9	32,620	16.6
with bench warrant	17,738	9.0	593	342	2,978	16.8	3,405	19.2	3,016	17.0	8,339	47.0
without bench warrant	178,460	91.0	176	105	95,820	53.7	34,053	19.1	24,306	13.6	24,281	13.6
Saskatchewan	26,547	100.0	172	73	15,973	60.2	4,664	17.6	2,577	9.7	3,333	12.6
with bench warrant	4,315	16.3	462	281	1,010	23.4	910	21.1	710	16.5	1,685	39.0
without bench warrant	22,232	83.7	116	50	14,963	67.3	3,754	16.9	1,867	8.4	1,648	7.4
Alberta	61,256	100.0	181	78	38,031	62.1	12,325	20.1	4,958	8.1	5,942	9.7
with bench warrant	13,057	21.3	492	218	3,881	29.7	3,176	24.3	1,890	14.5	4,110	31.5
without bench warrant	48,199	78.7	96	49	34,150	70.9	9,149	19.0	3,068	6.4	1,832	3.8
British Columbia	55,209	100.0	193	92	30,938	56.0	9,497	17.2	6,445	11.7	8,329	15.1
with bench warrant	13,376	24.2	360	214	4,296	32.1	2,915	21.8	2,039	15.2	4,126	30.8
without bench warrant	41,833	75.8	140	61	26,642	63.7	6,582	15.7	4,406	10.5	4,203	10.0
Yukon	1,081	100.0	143	71	697	64.5	232	21.5	90	8.3	62	5.7
with bench warrant	138	12.8	477	214	36	26.1	42	30.4	22	15.9	38	27.5
without bench warrant	943	87.2	94	60	661	70.1	190	20.1	68	7.2	24	2.5

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Mean and median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

The Median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all values are sorted by size.

Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of Criminal Code charges in that province) are not available.

Mean and median elapsed time includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Cases completed in superior courts represent 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

2. Bench warrants (i.e., arrest warrants) are usually issued when an individual fails to attend court, creating a situation where the court is simply unable to proceed with the case.

3. More than half the cases were dealt with by one court appearance; therefore the median is one day.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

**Cases by decision,
ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹**

Jurisdiction	Total cases	Decision							
		Found guilty #	%	Stay/Withdrawn #	%	Acquittal #	%	Other #	%
Total	445,650	257,127	57.7	158,555	35.6	13,921	3.1	16,047	3.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	7,041	4,684	66.5	2,059	29.2	2	0.0	296	4.2
Prince Edward Island	1,644	944	57.4	655	39.8	17	1.0	28	1.7
Nova Scotia	13,977	6,895	49.3	6,213	44.5	605	4.3	264	1.9
New Brunswick	9,463	6,772	71.6	2,179	23.0	377	4.0	135	1.4
Quebec	73,234	51,925	70.9	8,226	11.2	9,418	12.9	3,665	5.0
Ontario	196,198	102,178	52.1	86,812	44.2	1,120	0.6	6,088	3.1
Saskatchewan	26,547	15,912	59.9	9,552	36.0	270	1.0	813	3.1
Alberta	61,256	36,711	59.9	23,012	37.6	769	1.3	764	1.2
British Columbia	55,209	30,499	55.2	19,420	35.2	1,329	2.4	3,961	7.2
Yukon	1,081	607	56.2	427	39.5	14	1.3	33	3.1

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

The calculation of "found guilty" includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Stay/withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably.

Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, or waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a guilty finding was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court (<2% of cases).

Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of Criminal Code charges in that province) are not available.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

**Guilty cases by type of sentence for the most serious offence in the case,
ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹**

Offence group	Convicted cases	Type of sentence for most serious offence							
		Prison		Conditional sentence ²		Probation		Fine	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences	257,127	90,916	35.4	13,267	5.2	118,379	46.0	81,527	31.7
Criminal Code total	229,953	84,422	36.7	10,687	4.6	110,313	48.0	68,418	29.8
Crimes against the person	57,562	20,166	35.0	3,619	6.3	43,857	76.2	6,024	10.5
Homicide	143	124	86.7	5	3.5	21	14.7	1	0.7
Attempted murder	54	38	70.4	0	0.0	19	35.2	0	0.0
Robbery	3,189	2,325	72.9	258	8.1	1,635	51.3	41	1.3
Sexual assault	1,722	780	45.3	307	17.8	1,306	75.8	93	5.4
Other sexual offences	887	408	46.0	179	20.2	681	76.8	33	3.7
Major assault	13,007	5,730	44.1	1,226	9.4	9,168	70.5	1,390	10.7
Common assault	25,607	6,128	23.9	1,032	4.0	20,547	80.2	3,165	12.4
Uttering threats	10,126	3,594	35.5	416	4.1	8,116	80.2	1,136	11.2
Criminal harassment	1,757	552	31.4	101	5.7	1,583	90.1	117	6.7
Other crimes against the person	1,070	487	45.5	95	8.9	781	73.0	48	4.5
Crimes against property	64,192	26,064	40.6	4,215	6.6	35,271	54.9	11,904	18.5
Theft	26,777	10,505	39.2	1,326	5.0	13,439	50.2	6,171	23.0
Break and enter	8,791	5,138	58.4	745	8.5	5,413	61.6	476	5.4
Fraud	11,577	3,972	34.3	1,408	12.2	6,987	60.4	1,701	14.7
Mischief	6,716	1,320	19.7	111	1.7	4,541	67.6	1,478	22.0
Possess stolen property	9,672	4,897	50.6	555	5.7	4,494	46.5	1,946	20.1
Other property crimes	659	232	35.2	70	10.6	397	60.2	132	20.0
Administration of justice	50,041	25,560	51.1	1,385	2.8	16,194	32.4	12,979	25.9
Fail to appear	5,493	2,806	51.1	163	3.0	1,449	26.4	1,525	27.8
Breach of probation	19,828	10,093	50.9	591	3.0	6,895	34.8	5,069	25.6
Unlawfully at large	2,423	2,008	82.9	29	1.2	363	15.0	225	9.3
Fail to comply with order	20,893	10,208	48.9	528	2.5	6,739	32.3	5,803	27.8
Other administration of justice	1,404	445	31.7	74	5.3	748	53.3	357	25.4
Other Criminal Code	16,799	5,273	31.4	595	3.5	8,107	48.3	4,932	29.4
Weapons	3,598	1,149	31.9	138	3.8	1,819	50.6	1,023	28.4
Prostitution	1,030	236	22.9	20	1.9	474	46.0	305	29.6
Disturbing the peace	1,673	243	14.5	14	0.8	783	46.8	676	40.4
Residual Criminal Code	10,498	3,645	34.7	423	4.0	5,031	47.9	2,928	27.9
Criminal Code traffic	41,359	7,359	17.8	873	2.1	6,884	16.6	32,579	78.8
Impaired driving	34,265	4,238	12.4	399	1.2	4,753	13.9	29,577	86.3
Other Criminal Code traffic	7,094	3,121	44.0	474	6.7	2,131	30.0	3,002	42.3
Other federal statute total	27,174	6,494	23.9	2,580	9.5	8,066	29.7	13,109	48.2
Drug possession	6,174	1,247	20.2	113	1.8	1,862	30.2	3,210	52.0
Drug trafficking	6,944	2,993	43.1	2,405	34.6	2,287	32.9	1,074	15.5
Youth Criminal Justice Act	765	271	35.4	22	2.9	256	33.5	307	40.1
Residual federal statutes	13,291	1,983	14.9	40	0.3	3,661	27.5	8,518	64.1

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Time in custody prior to sentencing is taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

2. In 2003/04, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

**Cases in provincial and superior courts by mean and median elapsed time
five provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹**

Offence group	Total ¹				Provincial court ²				Superior court ³			
	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)
Cases	140,986	100.0	85	186	138,183	100.0	84	182	2,803	100.0	299	399
Crimes against the person	33,417	23.7	116	194	32,139	23.3	113	187	1,278	45.6	289	367
Crimes against property	37,275	26.4	85	203	36,898	26.7	85	200	377	13.4	290	448
Administration of justice	23,835	16.9	29	129	23,781	17.2	29	128	54	1.9	414	400
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	8,799	6.2	85	166	8,560	6.2	84	161	239	8.5	208	368
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	20,884	14.8	86	173	20,751	15.0	85	172	133	4.7	341	413
Other federal statute total ⁴	16,776	11.9	116	243	16,054	11.6	109	234	722	25.8	320	436

Notes: Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Prince Edward Island superior court data does not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance. As a result, data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis of the elapsed times in provincial and superior courts. Please see Table 1 for the list of offences included in each offence category. Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance. The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

- Five provinces and territories (i.e., Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon) Data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis of the elapsed times in provincial and superior courts.
- Summary conviction and indictable offences ineligible for or not elected for trial in superior court.
- Indictable offences for which superior court has exclusive jurisdiction or elected for trial in superior court.
- The majority of offences in superior court were Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

**Cases in provincial and superior courts by mean and median length of prison sentence
six provinces and territories in Canada, 2003/04¹**

Offence group	Total ¹				Provincial court ²				Superior court ³			
	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)	#	%	Median (in days)	Mean (in days)
Total cases with prison	25,105	100.0	30	118	24,524	100.0	30	96	581	100.0	440	1,015
Crimes against the person	4,626	18.4	60	314	4,312	17.6	60	228	314	54.0	730	1,497
Crimes against property	8,987	35.8	30	94	8,898	36.3	30	92	89	15.3	180	333
Administration of justice	6,693	26.7	7	17	6,683	27.3	7	17	10	1.7	60	180
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	1,270	5.1	30	99	1,233	5.0	30	83	37	6.4	360	634
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	2,013	8.0	30	62	1,982	8.1	30	56	31	5.3	300	469
Other federal statute total ⁴	1,516	6.0	60	191	1,416	5.8	60	169	100	17.2	330	502

Notes: Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Please see Table 1 for the list of offences included in each offence category. The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recorded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence lengths.

- Six provinces and territories (i.e., Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon)
- Summary conviction and indictable offences ineligible for or not elected for trial in superior court.
- Indictable offences for which superior court has exclusive jurisdiction or elected for trial in superior court.
- The majority of offences in superior court were Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Number of cases disposed in adult criminal court, eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95, 1999/00 to 2003/04¹

Offence group	2003/04					2002/03		2001/02		2000/01		1999/00		1994/95	
	#	%	% change from 2002/03	% change from 1999/00	% change from 1994/95	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences	380,978	100.0	-4.1	3.0	-13.0	397,213	100.0	382,072	100.0	367,883	100.0	369,811	100.0	437,948	100.0
Criminal Code total	338,875	88.9	-3.0	4.2	-11.7	349,349	88.0	337,001	88.2	323,418	87.9	325,289	88.0	383,884	87.7
Crimes against the person	102,409	26.9	-5.3	9.2	0.5	108,192	27.2	102,576	26.8	95,405	25.9	93,749	25.4	101,921	23.3
Homicide	410	0.1	10.5	-0.5	4.3	371	0.1	409	0.1	399	0.1	412	0.1	393	0.1
Attempted murder	348	0.1	-8.9	8.1	-16.5	382	0.1	326	0.1	270	0.1	322	0.1	417	0.1
Robbery	4,924	1.3	1.8	11.7	14.5	4,838	1.2	4,633	1.2	4,238	1.2	4,407	1.2	4,299	1.0
Sexual assault	3,813	1.0	-10.2	-6.5	-29.7	4,245	1.1	4,075	1.1	3,724	1.0	4,077	1.1	5,423	1.2
Other sexual offences	2,118	0.6	-5.7	-2.1	-23.2	2,245	0.6	2,089	0.5	2,098	0.6	2,164	0.6	2,758	0.6
Major assault	23,463	6.2	-3.3	12.8	27.7	24,259	6.1	22,549	5.9	21,196	5.8	20,793	5.6	18,378	4.2
Common assault	41,919	11.0	-7.1	6.1	-15.6	45,113	11.4	42,989	11.3	40,656	11.1	39,491	10.7	49,694	11.3
Uttering threats	19,265	5.1	-5.7	12.9	24.3	20,427	5.1	19,724	5.2	17,620	4.8	17,061	4.6	15,494	3.5
Criminal harassment	3,334	0.9	-1.6	29.8	56.3	3,389	0.9	3,105	0.8	2,626	0.7	2,568	0.7	2,133	0.5
Other crimes against the person	2,815	0.7	-3.7	14.7	-4.0	2,923	0.7	2,677	0.7	2,578	0.7	2,454	0.7	2,932	0.7
Crimes against property	87,064	22.9	-1.6	-2.7	-23.5	88,515	22.3	86,413	22.6	85,071	23.1	89,518	24.2	113,856	26.0
Theft	32,745	8.6	-0.1	-0.9	-26.1	32,769	8.2	32,046	8.4	31,002	8.4	33,039	8.9	44,293	10.1
Break and enter	11,299	3.0	-0.6	-9.5	-24.4	11,362	2.9	11,230	2.9	11,643	3.2	12,486	3.4	14,949	3.4
Fraud	16,890	4.4	-3.4	-7.4	-27.6	17,478	4.4	17,313	4.5	17,599	4.8	18,234	4.9	23,313	5.3
Mischief	9,753	2.6	-6.8	3.3	-22.4	10,470	2.6	10,202	2.7	9,573	2.6	9,443	2.6	12,573	2.9
Possess stolen property	15,300	4.0	-1.3	-0.6	-13.3	15,504	3.9	14,837	3.9	14,424	3.9	15,386	4.2	17,646	4.0
Other property crimes	1,077	0.3	15.6	15.8	-0.5	932	0.2	785	0.2	830	0.2	930	0.3	1,082	0.2
Administration of justice	72,751	19.1	3.1	20.3	15.2	70,533	17.8	67,644	17.7	64,144	17.4	60,455	16.3	63,161	14.4
Fail to appear	11,074	2.9	12.1	9.9	0.6	9,875	2.5	9,963	2.6	9,860	2.7	10,072	2.7	11,012	2.5
Breach of probation	23,593	6.2	1.3	22.3	30.5	23,280	5.9	21,874	5.7	20,729	5.6	19,287	5.2	18,081	4.1
Unlawfully at large	2,877	0.8	0.4	-12.4	-38.0	2,865	0.7	2,942	0.8	3,338	0.9	3,285	0.9	4,641	1.1
Fail to comply with order	32,943	8.6	2.2	28.6	26.3	32,244	8.1	30,656	8.0	27,886	7.6	25,614	6.9	26,076	6.0
Other administration of justice	2,264	0.6	-0.2	3.0	-32.4	2,269	0.6	2,209	0.6	2,331	0.6	2,197	0.6	3,351	0.8
Other Criminal Code	26,154	6.9	-5.5	0.4	-15.4	27,664	7.0	26,077	6.8	25,951	7.1	26,046	7.0	30,918	7.1
Weapons	5,480	1.4	-5.8	8.7	-21.1	5,819	1.5	5,195	1.4	4,903	1.3	5,041	1.4	6,947	1.6
Prostitution	2,124	0.6	-12.7	-37.1	-37.8	2,434	0.6	2,250	0.6	2,765	0.8	3,379	0.9	3,413	0.8
Disturbing the peace	2,514	0.7	-7.0	-1.1	-28.3	2,702	0.7	2,711	0.7	2,517	0.7	2,541	0.7	3,505	0.8
Residual Criminal Code	16,036	4.2	-4.0	6.3	-6.0	16,709	4.2	15,921	4.2	15,766	4.3	15,085	4.1	17,053	3.9
Criminal Code traffic	50,497	13.3	-7.3	-9.0	-31.8	54,445	13.7	54,291	14.2	52,847	14.4	55,521	15.0	74,028	16.9
Impaired driving	41,704	10.9	-8.3	-10.1	-29.6	45,503	11.5	45,002	11.8	44,036	12.0	46,387	12.5	59,218	13.5
Other Criminal Code traffic	8,793	2.3	-1.7	-3.7	-40.6	8,942	2.3	9,289	2.4	8,811	2.4	9,134	2.5	14,810	3.4
Other federal statute total	42,103	11.1	-12.0	-5.4	-22.1	47,864	12.0	45,071	11.8	44,465	12.1	44,522	12.0	54,064	12.3
Drug possession	13,703	3.6	-16.8	2.6	-18.7	16,479	4.1	16,647	4.4	14,895	4.0	13,354	3.6	16,860	3.8
Drug trafficking	11,169	2.9	-8.7	26.5	-0.3	12,234	3.1	10,310	2.7	9,080	2.5	8,828	2.4	11,199	2.6
Youth Criminal Justice Act	1,129	0.3	-36.3	-29.7	-10.3	1,772	0.4	1,763	0.5	1,713	0.5	1,605	0.4	1,258	0.3
Residual federal statutes	16,102	4.2	-7.3	-22.3	-34.9	17,379	4.4	16,351	4.3	18,777	5.1	20,735	5.6	24,747	5.7

Notes: Superior court data were collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

Incorporates data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Guilty cases by mean and median prison sentence (days), eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95, 1999/00 to 2003/04¹

Offence group	2003/04		2002/03		2001/02		2000/01		1999/00		1994/95	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Total offences	114	30	115	30	123	30	129	30	132	30	115	30
Criminal Code total	110	30	111	30	119	30	124	30	127	30	111	30
Crimes against the person	212	60	203	60	218	60	228	60	232	90	210	60
Homicide	4,174	2,628	3,898	2,190	3,212	1,825	4,138	2,780	3,711	2,190	2,805	1,825
Attempted murder	1,592	1,320	1,176	975	2,095	1,620	2,000	1,858	1,858	1,620	2,252	1,825
Robbery	644	450	621	365	720	540	738	540	736	540	846	728
Sexual assault	466	360	471	300	524	300	485	360	466	270	446	180
Other sexual offences	529	360	458	360	472	360	456	360	412	270	412	180
Major assault	152	70	148	60	151	75	151	90	152	90	151	90
Common assault	58	30	61	30	62	30	64	30	63	30	55	30
Uttering threats	84	40	89	45	85	45	87	45	97	60	93	60
Criminal harassment	118	50	87	47	103	60	94	60	91	60	84	60
Other crimes against the person	388	180	395	180	385	180	495	240	406	180	379	180
Crimes against property	115	45	118	45	126	60	135	60	138	60	128	60
Theft	59	30	65	30	71	30	75	30	75	30	78	30
Break and enter	259	120	252	150	261	180	269	180	276	180	253	180
Fraud	110	45	114	45	121	60	129	60	129	60	109	60
Mischief	46	15	47	25	48	30	53	30	52	30	45	30
Possess stolen property	88	45	91	45	94	60	98	60	99	60	100	60
Other property crimes	173	60	245	120	209	90	276	180	238	150	196	90
Administration of justice	27	15	28	15	31	15	32	20	34	21	34	30
Fail to appear	21	9	22	10	24	14	23	15	25	15	27	15
Breach of probation	32	19	34	21	37	30	37	30	38	30	38	30
Unlawfully at large	38	30	38	30	44	30	46	30	43	30	43	30
Fail to comply with order	21	8	21	10	23	14	24	15	28	15	26	15
Other administration of justice	71	30	70	30	67	30	80	30	76	30	59	30
Other Criminal Code	132	30	143	30	150	40	154	30	142	30	119	30
Weapons	130	40	120	45	123	54	137	60	118	60	102	60
Prostitution	53	3	26	7	40	8	37	5	38	7	43	15
Disturbing the peace	16	6	21	7	19	10	29	10	23	10	23	14
Residual Criminal Code	146	39	167	45	173	50	178	45	170	60	146	45
Criminal Code traffic	79	30	77	30	78	30	76	30	77	30	63	30
Impaired driving	73	30	72	30	72	30	67	30	65	30	55	21
Other Criminal Code traffic	87	34	84	30	87	42	91	45	96	45	74	35
Other federal statute total	172	60	172	60	178	60	197	60	200	60	168	60
Drug possession	24	10	27	10	23	10	28	15	31	15	35	15
Drug trafficking	239	90	231	90	250	90	288	90	299	120	263	120
Youth Criminal Justice Act	24	14	33	15	26	15	28	21	30	30	31	30
Residual federal statutes	198	90	210	120	222	100	217	90	205	90	95	30

Notes: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. Incorporates data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recoded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence length means.

Time in custody prior to sentencing is taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

**Guilty cases by mean and median probation sentence (days),
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95, 1999/00 to 2003/04¹**

Offence group	2003/04		2002/03		2001/02		2000/01		1999/00		1994/95	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Total offences	473	365	470	365	474	365	475	365	476	365	473	365
Criminal Code total	473	365	472	365	476	365	477	365	478	365	472	365
Crimes against the person	509	365	508	365	512	365	517	365	516	365	514	365
Homicide	673	540	821	913	641	630	716	540	792	725	708	730
Attempted murder	732	730	763	730	748	730	765	730	859	1,095	728	730
Robbery	687	730	669	730	684	730	705	730	707	730	777	730
Sexual assault	660	720	641	720	655	720	638	720	670	730	693	730
Other sexual offences	781	730	787	730	787	730	800	730	764	730	773	730
Major assault	524	365	527	450	534	540	536	540	530	450	550	540
Common assault	438	365	439	365	438	365	447	365	443	365	447	365
Uttering threats	544	540	540	540	548	540	554	540	555	540	595	540
Criminal harassment	647	730	653	730	666	730	671	730	658	730	654	730
Other crimes against the person	625	720	613	540	647	730	616	540	615	540	593	540
Crimes against property	470	365	469	365	476	365	477	365	479	365	483	365
Theft	437	365	430	365	439	365	441	365	437	365	441	365
Break and enter	564	540	565	540	581	540	582	540	577	540	620	730
Fraud	513	365	509	365	519	365	518	365	519	365	519	365
Mischief	387	365	392	360	385	360	386	360	392	360	389	365
Possess stolen property	451	365	452	365	455	365	445	365	454	365	463	365
Other property crimes	547	540	583	540	565	540	598	540	599	540	605	730
Administration of justice	419	365	415	365	419	365	415	365	417	365	430	365
Fail to appear	410	365	386	360	393	365	394	365	401	365	416	365
Breach of probation	415	365	415	365	419	365	407	365	409	365	426	365
Unlawfully at large	408	365	378	365	394	365	403	365	412	365	422	365
Fail to comply with order	423	365	419	365	423	365	426	365	427	365	439	365
Other administration of justice	453	365	445	365	448	365	442	365	435	365	436	365
Other Criminal Code	473	365	469	365	479	365	476	365	483	365	487	365
Weapons	468	365	456	365	475	365	480	365	493	365	500	365
Prostitution	397	365	384	360	348	360	378	360	397	360	391	360
Disturbing the peace	341	360	341	360	332	360	319	360	321	360	325	360
Residual Criminal Code	501	365	499	365	514	365	512	365	516	365	525	365
Criminal Code traffic	394	365	388	360	383	360	375	360	368	360	334	360
Impaired driving	396	365	386	360	384	360	374	360	364	360	317	300
Other Criminal Code traffic	390	365	394	360	381	360	380	360	378	360	389	365
Other federal statute total	469	365	444	365	447	365	450	365	449	365	490	365
Drug possession	342	360	310	360	313	360	326	360	329	360	389	365
Drug trafficking	446	365	440	365	438	365	429	365	435	365	624	730
Youth Criminal Justice Act	356	360	354	360	356	360	355	360	331	360	349	360
Residual federal statutes	538	540	535	365	547	540	537	540	524	365	478	365

Notes: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.
Incorporates data revisions for the ACCS (See Methodology section for details.)

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

1. This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

**Guilty cases by mean fine amount (current and constant* dollars),
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95, 1999/00 to 2003/04¹**

	2003/04		2002/03		2001/02		2000/01		1999/00		1994/95	
Offence group	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)	Mean (current dollars)	Mean (1992 dollars)
Total offences	783	640	738	620	721	619	1,175	1,035	722	653	502	492
<i>Criminal Code</i> total	654	535	577	485	581	499	600	529	632	572	410	402
Crimes against the person	366	299	386	325	416	357	437	385	384	347	360	353
Homicide	0	0	617	518	2,000	1,718	660	581	500	452	500	490
Attempted murder	0	0	500	420	0	0	9,400	8,282	1,000	905	1,500	1,471
Robbery	435	356	372	313	449	386	543	478	524	474	298	293
Sexual assault	646	528	694	584	704	605	736	649	630	570	606	594
Other sexual offences	417	341	757	636	896	770	11,824	10,417	566	512	543	532
Major assault	425	348	451	379	466	400	466	411	443	401	434	426
Common assault	364	297	380	320	386	332	383	338	363	328	325	318
Uttering threats	279	228	286	241	266	229	293	258	262	237	271	266
Criminal harassment	344	281	329	277	380	327	459	404	305	276	288	283
Other crimes against the person	468	382	471	396	2,716	2,333	616	543	1,389	1,257	1,456	1,428
Crimes against property	466	381	361	303	345	296	511	450	408	369	283	277
Theft	275	225	282	237	272	234	295	260	290	263	225	221
Break and enter	439	359	423	356	460	395	474	418	433	392	418	410
Fraud	1,197	979	502	422	456	392	489	431	802	726	363	356
Mischief	298	244	280	235	284	244	281	248	271	245	233	228
Possess stolen property	552	452	506	425	472	406	1,332	1,174	498	451	428	420
Other property crimes	431	352	462	389	533	458	462	407	528	478	544	533
Administration of justice	240	196	238	200	247	212	232	205	218	198	185	182
Fail to appear	194	159	190	160	195	167	196	173	182	164	169	166
Breach of probation	265	217	266	223	270	232	261	230	246	223	188	185
Unlawfully at large	309	253	327	275	298	256	319	281	269	243	302	296
Fail to comply with order	210	172	208	175	203	174	197	174	182	165	153	150
Other administration of justice	557	456	508	427	897	771	447	394	497	450	400	393
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	1,691	1,382	834	701	879	755	889	783	2,283	2,066	491	481
Weapons	319	261	346	291	377	324	332	292	312	283	315	309
Prostitution	783	641	557	468	431	371	503	444	372	337	318	312
Disturbing the peace	258	211	267	224	256	220	243	214	244	221	191	187
Residual <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,568	2,100	1,164	979	1,282	1,101	1,334	1,175	4,048	3,663	728	714
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	790	646	785	659	777	667	757	667	648	586	546	535
Impaired driving	801	655	793	667	787	676	767	676	650	588	542	532
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	686	561	694	583	664	571	644	567	621	562	574	562
Other federal statute total	1,462	1,195	1,409	1,184	1,296	1,114	3,400	2,995	1,064	963	833	817
Drug possession	412	337	334	281	320	275	323	284	294	266	285	279
Drug trafficking	1,280	1,046	1,561	1,311	1,144	983	1,387	1,222	1,432	1,296	1,211	1,187
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	249	203	250	210	238	204	229	201	233	211	209	205
Residual federal statutes	1,883	1,539	1,999	1,680	1,961	1,685	5,258	4,633	1,383	1,252	1,064	1,043

Notes: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

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For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

* Dollar amounts calculated on a one year base (1992 = 100) that adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable. For more information see Statistics Canada catalogue no. 62-557, Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index.

1. This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at (613) 951-9023 or call toll-free 1 800 387-2231. To order a publication, you may telephone (613) 951-7277 or fax (613) 951-1584 or visit the Internet: infostats@statcan.ca. You may also call 1 800 267-6677 (Canada and United States) toll-free. If you order by telephone, written confirmation is not required.

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Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime

by Kathy AuCoin

Highlights

- According to a subset of 122 police services representing 61% of the national volume of crime, in 2003, children and youth, under 18 years of age were the victims of 22% of violations against the person.
- Sexual assaults are largely crimes committed against children and youth. Overall, children and youth accounted for 61% of all victims of sexual assaults reported to police and accounted for 21% of all victims of physical assault.
- Six out of ten physical assault victims and half of sexual assault victims under the age of 6 were assaulted by a family member.
- Teenagers (14-to-17) experienced a higher proportion of assaults perpetrated by persons from outside of the family circle.
- As age increases the proportion of violent crime categorized as other violations involving violence or the threat of violence which includes robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment increased.
- Youth 14-to-17 years of age were victims in 17% of all reported robberies and in 14% of all police-reported cases of extortion – yet they represent 5% of the population.
- At each age, female children and youth were assaulted more than males by a family member while male children and youth were more likely to be assaulted by persons from outside of the family.
- According to the same subset of 122 police services, in 2003, there were 157 parental abductions of children and 134 non-parental abductions reported to the police. Over half of non-parental abductions were at the hands of strangers (57%) and the majority of victims were under the age of 13 (89%).



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Introduction

Children and youth are victims of physical and sexual assaults and other forms of violence which are perpetrated by fathers, mothers, siblings, acquaintances, friends and strangers. They are targeted at home, in their neighbourhood, at school and even when they are surfing on the Internet.

In addition to the immediate physical and emotional consequences of victimization – children and youth may suffer many adverse long-term impacts. The emotional consequences that children and youth experience as a result of victimization may lead to hostility, withdrawal and aggressiveness (Ristock, 1995). Research has also shown that individuals who have been victimized have higher rates of delinquent behaviour (Fitzgerald, 2004). American researchers found that victims of childhood abuse and neglect had increased odds of being arrested as juveniles and were more likely to be arrested for violent crime (Widom and Maxfield, 2001). These results support the theory that childhood experiences of victimization can contribute to the likelihood of experiencing or initiating violent behaviour in later years – therefore continuing the cycle of violence.

Children who witness family violence may also experience long-term consequences and be at risk of behavioural and developmental problems as well as emotional disorders such as depression, fear or anxiety. Male children who had witnessed their fathers abusing their spouses were found to be three times more likely to be violent in their own intimate relationships (Johnson, 1996). Children who witness violence in the home have more than double the odds of acting out aggressively than do children who never witness violence (Hotton, 2003) and have higher levels of anxiety (Moss, 2003). This research suggests that early intervention is essential in order to reduce the negative impacts of violence on children and youth.

Legislation has, over the years, evolved in an effort to better protect the youngest members of society. For example, mandatory reporting laws were implemented in cases of child abuse, child abuse registries were created to better protect children and amendments to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Canada Evidence Act* were enacted (Department of Justice Canada, 2001a). In addition, significant improvements have been made to the criminal justice system to recognize the needs of the child and signify that the courts perceive them as legitimate witnesses and recognize that adjustments must be made in order to facilitate their participation in the justice system. Witness court preparation programs and permitting children to have their statements videotaped, are examples of such initiatives.

This *Juristat* explores police-reported data to shed light on both the nature and extent to which children and youth are victimized. Included in this analysis is a description of who is most vulnerable to what offences and by whom. Offences that are examined include physical assaults, sexual assaults, and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (including robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment), homicides and abductions. In addition, the *Juristat* will also examine other *Criminal Code* child-specific sexual offences such as child pornography. The characteristics and court outcomes of these child-specific sexual offences are presented.

While this report relies on police-reported data as a means of measuring the prevalence and incidence of violent victimization of children and youth, research suggests that cases that come to the attention of the police represent only a portion of incidents of child victimizations. Victimization surveys show that many instances of violence against teens remain unreported to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), which asked people 15 years of age and older about their victimization experiences, 86% of sexual assaults and 73% of physical assaults were not reported to the police by youth aged 15-to-17 years. It would be expected that this would hold true for victims younger than 15 who may lack the understanding of what constitutes abuse, may be dependant on the offender and may be unaware of how or to whom to report a crime. The GSS results also suggest that the likelihood of victims reporting incidents of violent offences increased with age (Trainor, 2001).

Finkelhor and Hashima (2001) state that there are developmental factors unique to children and youth which impede reporting victimization to police. For the youngest victim the fact that their parents are "gatekeepers" to police results in the likelihood that violent behavior remains unreported. Youth victims, according to Finkelhor, may also choose not to report violence to police due to a belief that turning to the police is inappropriate or could result in reprisals.

As children age, the people and environments that they come into contact with increases and the likelihood and nature of victimization changes. This *Juristat* will present data on the violent victimization of children and youth in a chronological manner. Children under 6 years of age spend the majority of their time with a primary caregiver be it a parent, relative or a paid caregiver and are at highest risk of intra-familial victimization. Children aged 6-to-10 years of age typically spend time in a broader array of environments and have an increasing amount of unsupervised time, such as walking to and from school or on playgrounds, which may lead to more opportunities for victimization by non-family members. The range of activities, contacts and unsupervised time broadens further for children in the "middle school years", aged 11-to-13. This includes increased use of the Internet and growing ties with peers. Finally, youth aged 14-to-17 years typically begin to obtain a greater degree of separation from their families relative to younger children. Rebellious behavior in the teen years and to a lesser extent pre-teens may lead to high-risk behaviors or situations where youth are at higher risk of being victimized.

Each of these age cohorts has specific physical and cognitive capabilities and social spheres which all have an impact on the types of assaults that they may fall victim to – be it the range of persons who assault them, the severity of the injury experienced or the location and time of the assault. Consequently, the following analysis will be categorized into four age groups, birth to preschool (under the age of 6), early school years (6-10), middle school years (11-13) and finally high school years (14-17).

The prevalence of police-reported violence against children and youth¹

In 2003, children and youth under 18 years of age represented 21%² of the Canadian population and 22%³ of victims of violent offences reported to 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime. Over half of all offences involving violence against children and youth were physical assaults (58%) followed by other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (23%) and sexual assaults (19%) (Table 1). In 2003, there were a total of 48 homicides against children and youth in which an accused person was identified, representing 12% of the total solved homicides reported to police in 2003.⁴

Children and youth were victims in six out of ten reported sexual assaults (61%) in 2003 (Table 1). Further, police figures may underestimate the problem. Earlier estimates derived from the 1999 General Social Survey suggests that more than three-quarters of sexual assaults of adults aged 15 years and over

(see Textbox 1 for definitions) are not reported to the police. This may be further exacerbated for younger victims, who due to their lack of understanding do not define these offending behaviours as criminal.

Children and youth were the victims in 21% of physical assaults reported to police departments in 2003 (Table 1). Similar to adult victims of violent crime, the most common type of physical assault experienced by children and youth was assault level 1, (common assault) (78%) followed by assault level 2 (20%).

Just under one-fifth of all other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, reported to police in 2003, were against children and youth (17%). Similar to adult victims, within this category, uttering threats (45%) and robbery (41%) were the most common types of offences experienced by children and youth (Table 1).

Violent victimization rates increase with age

According to police-reported data, in 2003, the risk of violent victimization for children and youth increased as the child ages. Rates of violent victimization for male and female victims remain relatively similar up until the age of 8, after which male rates exceed those of females. The rate of victimization for female victims increases through the teenage years to peak at 2,463 assaults per 100,000 population at age 15. For male victims, rates increase sharply up until age 13 and peak at 2,557 at age 17 (Figure 1). Some researchers attribute the increased rate of violent victimization of youth as a direct result of their risk-taking behaviours (Lauritsen, et.al. 1991). For example, youth aged 14-to-17 are beginning to experiment with alcohol and drugs. According to data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), 29% of 14-year olds and 44% of 15-year olds reported drinking to intoxication at least once in the last year, 1998/1999 (Hotton & Haans, 2004). Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) also found that almost one third (29%) of youth, aged 15-to-17 years, reported using marijuana in the past year and 8% reported using other illicit drugs. A higher proportion of males than females reported using cannabis and other illicit drugs (Tjepkema, 2004).

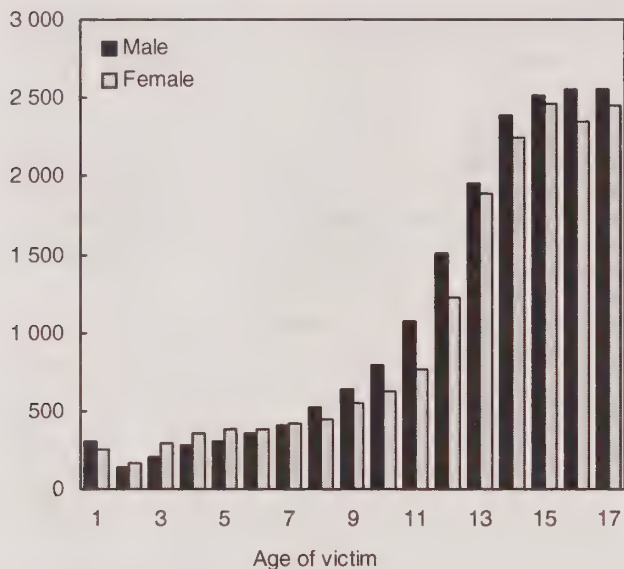
Many studies have also found that male youth are more likely to partake in high risk behaviors relative to females of the same age. For example, a larger proportion of 15-to-19 year old males reported binge drinking on a monthly basis than females (29% and 19% respectively, binge drinking is defined as more than five drinks at one sitting) (Perez, 1999).

1. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
2. Census data excluding persons over the age of 89 and children under one year of age, postcensal estimations.
3. These include physical and sexual assaults, murder, abductions, kidnapping, and other violent violations or the threat of violence.
4. In 2003, there were a total of 59 homicides of children of which 48 were solved (a perpetrator of the homicide was determined) and the remaining 11 were unsolved. For the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

Figure 1

Rates of police-reported violent victimization highest for older children, 2003^{1,2,3,4}

Rate per 100,000 population



1. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
 2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 3. Includes sexual and physical assault, abduction, kidnapping, murder, and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.
 4. Rate per 100,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
- Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Trends in police-reported incidents of violence against children, 1998-2003

The UCR Trend Database contains data from 71 police services that have reported to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey since 1998 and which represent 46% of the national volume of crime in Canada in 2003. Data from this survey provides an overview of changes in the occurrence of violence against children and youth.

Trends for all types of violent offences (including sexual and physical assaults and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence) have remained relatively stable for children under the age of 11. Overall, assault rates against youth, aged 14-to-17 show a slight decline since 2000 when rates were highest at 2,372 per 100,000. This slight downward trend is also apparent for victims aged 11-to-13 with rates highest in 2000 at 1,399 incidents of violence per 100,000 population and then declining to 1,246 in 2003 (Table 2).

Rates of police-reported physical assault for youth on the decline

Further analysis of the trend database indicates that the fall in the victimization rates experienced by youth is driven by decreases in rates of physical assaults. Physical assault rates were highest in 2000 for victims aged 14-to-17 (1,371 assaults per 100,000 population), 11-to-13 (812) and 6-to-10 (253) after which time they decreased slightly in each of the subsequent years (Table 2). Physical assault rates for victims under the age of 6 peaked in 2002 at 107 and have since fallen.

On the other hand, sexual assault rates against children and youth generally increased between 1999 and 2002 but have subsequently fallen in 2003 for each age group (Table 2).

Between 1999 and 2000, rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵ including robbery, extortion, criminal harassment and uttering threats increased for victims over the age of 6. These rates fell to a 4 year low in 2002 before rising in 2003 (Table 2).

Police-reported physical assaults, 2003

Over half of all assaults reported to police against children and youth are physical assaults

In 2003, just under 28,000 physical assaults against children and youth were reported to a subset of 122 police departments. The most common type of physical assault experienced by a child or youth was assault level 1 (common assault) (78%) which is an assault that involves pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Assault level 2 (20%) defined as carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm was the second most common type of physical assault experienced by children and youth. Assault level 3 (1%) involving wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone was less common (Table 1).

Youth aged 14-to-17 years were victims in over half (57%) of all reported physical assaults against children and youth, and one quarter of physical assaults were against victims aged 11-to-13 years. Male children and youth were victims in over six out of ten (61%) police-reported physical assaults against children and youth.

Male children and youth, regardless of age, were proportionally more likely to be physically assaulted by someone from outside of the family than were females. In over 7 out of 10 cases reported to the police against male youth, over the age of 11, the victim was assaulted by someone from outside of the family (Table 3).

5. Rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence are not presented for 1998 as partial year data only was available for the offence of "uttering threats" for that year.

Textbox 1

Physical Assault refers to the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Common assault, (section 265). This includes the *Criminal Code* category assault (level 1). This is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

Assault levels 2 and 3, (sections 267, 268). This includes more serious forms of assault, i.e. assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3). Assault level 2 involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm. Assault level 3 involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.

Sexual assault includes the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Sexual assault level 1, (section 271). This involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim.

Sexual assault level 2, (section 272). This includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats or causing bodily harm.

Aggravated sexual assault level 3, (section 273). This results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim.

Other sexual offences include a group of offences that are primarily meant to address incidents of sexual abuse directed at children. The *Criminal Code* offences that are included in this category are:

Sexual interference (Section 151) – is the direct or indirect touching (for a sexual purpose) of a person under the age of 14 years using a part of the body or an object.

Invitation to sexual touching (Section 152) – is the inviting, counselling, or inciting of a person under the age of 14 years to touch (for a sexual purpose) the body of any person directly or indirectly with a part of the body or with an object.

Sexual exploitation (Section 153) – occurs when a person in a position of trust or authority towards a young person or a person with whom the young person is in a relationship of dependency, commits sexual interference or invitation to sexual touching. In this section "young person" refers to a person aged 14-to-18 years of age.

Incest (Section 155) – occurs when an individual has sexual intercourse with a person that has a known defined blood relationship with them.

Anal intercourse (Section 159) and **Bestiality** (Section 160) are also included in this category of offences. These offences may be directed at children, but not always.

Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence include the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Criminal harassment, which is the act of repeatedly following another person from place to place, attempting to contact the person against their wishes, causing that person to fear for their personal safety or the safety of anyone known to them.

Extortion is the act of threatening another individual through words, actions or violence in order to force the person to do something against their will.

Uttering Threats to a Person is the act of threatening to harm either another person, his/her belongings, family or pets.

Robbery is the act of stealing and in the process using violence or the threat of violence in the act.

This category also includes the following; arson, explosives causing death or bodily harm as well as other violent violations (which includes the offences of abandoning a child, accessory after the fact to murder, conceal body of a child and other offences).

Young children (under 6 years) most often physically assaulted by family members

According to police-reported data, the majority of physical assaults against children under 6 years of age were perpetrated by someone the victim knew. In six out of ten police-reported physical assaults of children under 6, the perpetrator was a family member (64% female victims, 62% male victims) and in 18% of cases the perpetrator was a close friend or acquaintance - persons who may have come into contact with the child through an older family member (Table 3).⁶

Fathers most often accused in family-related physical assaults against children and youth

Overall, when a family member was accused of physically assaulting a child or youth, more than six in ten of these accused (65%) was a parent (biological, step, foster or adoptive)⁷. According to police data, 44% of those accused in family-related physical assaults against children and youth were fathers, followed by mothers (21%)⁸ and brothers (15%). Just under one half (49%) of parents accused of physically assaulting their child were aged 35-to-44 years while one quarter (25%) were aged 25-to-34 years.

Among physical assaults perpetrated by a mother, a higher proportion of victims were daughters (63%) while fathers assaulted a higher proportion of sons (55%).

Youth (aged 14-to-17) were more likely to be physically assaulted by a stranger or peer

Older youth are at highest risk of being assaulted by their peers. For example, youth aged 11-to-17 were more likely to be physically assaulted by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (63% of victims aged 11-13 years and 61% of victims aged 14-to-17 years). Considering only victims aged 14-to-17, 63% of those accused of physical assault that were classified as a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship, were from the same age group as the victim. In the case of victims aged 11-to-13, 52% of close friends, acquaintance and business relationship accused were from the same age group as the victim.

6. It should be noted that the classification of a close friend or acquaintance are terms that, with the youngest victim, does not translate into a playmate, but rather in most instances is someone brought into the victim's environment by an older family member. Close to two thirds (65%) of persons accused of assaulting children under the age of 6 and classified as a close friend, acquaintance or a business relationship were over 18 years of age and therefore it could be reasoned that the contact between the victim and the offender was brought about by an older family member.
7. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not distinguish between biological, step, or foster parent.
8. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not distinguish between biological, step, or foster parent.

Strangers were responsible for a larger proportion of physical assaults against youth aged 14- to-17 years of age (15% female victims, 28% male victims) relative to any other age group (Table 3). Youth of this age are more independent and mobile than younger age groups and consequently are more likely in situations where they might be exposed to strangers and the possibility of being victimized. In addition, male victims at each age group had a higher proportion of physical assaults perpetrated by a stranger relative to female victims of physical assault.

Injury requiring medical attention more common among youngest victims (under 6 years of age) and male youth (14- to-17)

Relative to other types of assaults experienced by children and youth, physical assaults resulted in a larger proportion of child and youth victims experiencing a minor or major injury. Children under the age of 6 and male youth aged 14-to-17 were most likely to sustain a major injury (7% and 6% respectively). Major injury is defined as requiring professional medical attention at the scene of the crime or requiring transportation to a medical facility (Table 4).

Some researchers attribute the fact that young children have little choice to leave an abusive situation as a primary reason why they are at greatest risk of severe victimization (Lynch, 1991). For example, Finkelhor (1994) points out that the youngest victims who live in a home where abuse is the norm do not have the choice or the option of leaving. Therefore the likelihood of enduring ongoing and escalating violence is greater for younger children. In contrast, some researchers believe that male youth may be more prone to injury, relative to younger and adult victims, due to the fact that many male youth are confronted by multiple assailants and/or assailants who are carrying a weapon (Finkelhor and Hashima, 2001).

Physical force most common method of causing injury in cases of physical assault

Regardless of the age of the victim, physical force, defined as using ones own strength to cause bodily harm was used in the majority of physical assaults causing injury, according to police data (Table 5).⁹ As would be expected, due to their small size, assaults against the youngest victims (less than 6 years of age) were least likely to involve the use of a weapon (12%), relative to older victims (Table 5).

Among children and youth victims of physical assault, the use of a weapon which resulted in an injury was most common in incidents committed against females aged 6-to-10 (24%), followed by male youth aged 14-to-17 (20%). When a weapon was used against these victims, it was most likely categorized as an "other" weapon (9% for male youth aged 14-to-17 years and 18% for females aged 6-to-10 years).¹⁰ For male youth weapons used to cause injury also included a club or blunt instrument (6%), a knife (5%) or a firearm (1%) (Table 5).

Male youth physically assaulted on streets, open areas and parking lots while young children (under 11 years of age) and female youth more likely to be assaulted in a private dwelling

Children under the age of 11 were more likely to be physically assaulted in a private dwelling¹¹ (Table 6). This is not surprising given the fact that children are more likely to be victimized by a family member. As the age of the victim increased, the proportion of physical assaults which occurred outside of a home also increased.

Male youth victims, aged 11 years and older, experienced a larger proportion of physical assaults on streets, roads and in parking lots and open areas (32% of 11-to-13 year olds and 35% of 14-to-17 year olds). For these victims the second most common location of a physical assault was a school (28% for male victims aged 11-to-13 and 22% for males aged 14-to-17). In contrast, female victims of physical assault aged 11 years and older, similar to younger victims, experienced a higher proportion of assaults relative to male victims of the same age in a private dwelling (38% of female victims aged 11-to-13 years and 42% of female victims aged 14-to-17 years) (Table 6).

Hour after school closure a time period with the highest percentage of physical assaults against school-aged children

The four hour block between three o'clock and seven o'clock, during the school year, was a time period in which children, aged 6-to-13 were at greatest risk of physical assault. Over forty percent (43%) of physical assaults against children aged 6-to-10 transpired during this time period and 37% of physical assaults against those aged 11- to-13.^{12,13} Furthermore, the one hour period between three and four o'clock, when many children and teenagers are homebound and often unsupervised was the hour of highest risk with 16% of physical assaults against victims aged 6-to-10 and 15% of those against children aged 11-to-13 occurring during this one hour block.¹⁴

In contrast, youth aged 14-to-17 years were more likely to be victims of physical assaults during the afternoon hours of noon to four pm (29%) which could be attributed to truancy. Similar to the younger age groups, the hour following school closure between three and four o'clock had an elevated risk of physical assaults (10% of incidents).

9. Toronto police force is excluded from the analysis on methods of violence causing injury.

10. Other weapons might include vehicles, pepper spray, whips, and objects that may be used for strangulation.

11. Private dwelling includes the following categories; single home, dwelling unit or commercial dwelling unit (apartment building).

12. These data reflect physical assaults which occurred during the school months, September through to June, inclusive. During the summer months of July and August there was no one hour period with a large percentage of incidents reported, the hour between 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock during these months had 8% of reported incidents of physical assaults.

13. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six year of age.

14. During the summer months of July and August there was no one hour period with a large percentage of incidents reported, the hour between 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock during these months had 6% of reported incidents of physical assaults.

Textbox 2 Assaults on school property

School aged children (aged 6-to-17 years) spend a significant amount of their waking time at school and it is expected that this location would have a high percentage of police-reported assaults. According to police-reported data, in 2003, 17% of all types of reported assaults against school aged children and youth occurred on school property. Over half of these assaults were against youth aged 14-to-17 (56%) while one third were against children aged 11-to-13 (33%).

When considering only those assaults which transpired on school property – the majority were physical assaults (70%), followed by uttering threats (14%), sexual assaults (8%), robbery (4%) and criminal harassment (4%). Physical force was employed in the majority of assaults which caused an injury (74%) followed by other weapons (9%) (for example whips or vehicles) and a club or blunt instrument (2%).

In the last few years increasing attention has been given to the health of school aged children. Since 1993 Canada has participated in the *Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children* (HBSC) study. The survey focuses on three age groups, 11, 13 and 15-year-olds, who are in grades 6 through to 10. Data from the last two cycles of this survey carried out in 1997/98 and 2001/02 touched upon feelings of safety at school and bullying.

According to results from the 1997/98 cycle, 10% of boys and 6% of girls reported that they never or rarely felt safe at school. At each grade level a larger proportion of male students reported feeling unsafe. In addition, a larger proportion of male students reported that most or all of their friends carried weapons, 9% of males surveyed from grade 8, and 9% in grade 9 and 7% in grade 10. By comparison, only 2% of grade 9 and 10 female students and 3% of female grade 8 students reported having friends who carried weapons (King, 1999).

Results from the 2001/02 cycle of the survey indicate that 25% of males and 21% of females reported some form of bullying. For both male and female victims of bullying, teasing was the most frequently reported form of bullying (79% females, 67% of males), followed by having rumors spread (72% females and 63% males). A larger proportion of bullied male students reported being physically victimized relative to females (45% and 21% respectively). The rate of this physical victimization decreased with age for each sex. In contrast, a larger proportion of female victims of bullying behavior reported sexual harassment, defined as being victimized by sexual jokes, comments or gestures and this form of bullying increased with age for females and peaked at grade 9 (55%) (Craig, 2004).

According to data from the 1997/98 cycle it appears that each gender group experienced different "offender types" of bullies. For example, grade 6 male victims of bullying reported being harassed primarily by one male (43%), a group of males (40%), a group of males and females (12%), a group of females (4%) or by one female (2%). In contrast, female victims reported a higher proportion of female perpetrators (19% lone female bully, 18% group of females, 22% group of males and females, 24% lone male and 17% group of males) (King, 1999).

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Police-reported sexual assaults, 2003

Females aged 11- to-17 are victims in a high proportion of sexual assaults

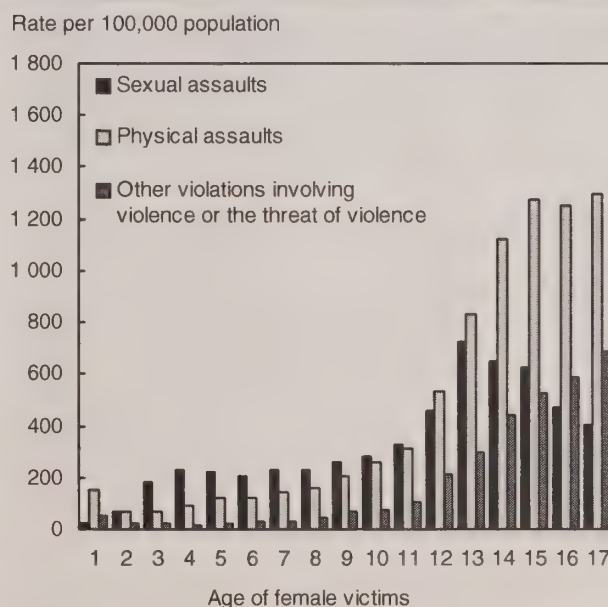
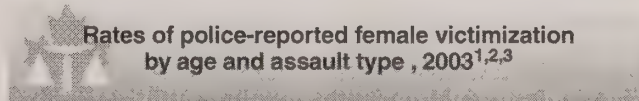
Sexual assaults are largely crimes committed against children and youth. Overall, children and youth accounted for 61% of all victims of sexual assaults reported to police. According to statistics from 122 police department there were over 9,000 child and youth victims of sexual assaults in 2003, the vast majority of which were female victims (80%). Teenaged girls aged 14-to-17 accounted for just under one third (31%) of all child and youth sexual assault victims and females aged 11-to-13 accounted for almost one quarter (23%) (Table 3). Sexual assault (level 1), (see Textbox 1 for a complete definition) accounted for 84% of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth in 2003 (Table 1).

Prior to the age of 12, female victims were more likely to be sexually assaulted than to be victims of other types of violent crimes against the person. For female victims the rate of sexual assaults, reported to police in 2003, generally increased until age 13 at which point there was a constant decrease. In contrast at each age sexual assaults was an offence that was least likely to be experienced by male children and youth (Figures 2 and 3).

Overall a significant proportion of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an individual known to the victim (86%). Half of victims under the age of 6 were sexually assaulted by a family member while this was the case for 44% of victims aged 6-to-10 (Table 3).

Strangers were implicated in only 5% of the reported sexual assaults against children and youth, and of these assaults the majority of the victims were older teens aged 14-to-17 (50%) or aged 11-to-13 (24%).

Figure 2



1. Excludes cases where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
 2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 3. Rate per 100,000 population per age, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
- Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Female youth (11-to-17 years) sexually assaulted by non-family perpetrators

As was the pattern with physical assaults, as the age of the victim increases the proportion of sexual assaults perpetrated by a family member decreased and the proportion of sexual assaults perpetrated by a non-family member increased. For example, a larger proportion of female youth (14-to-17) were sexually assaulted by persons from outside of the family circle (72%), while a relatively larger proportion of sexual assaults against the youngest victims (under age 6) involved a family member (50%) (Table 3). As was the case with physical assaults, a larger proportion of female victims relative to male victims were assaulted by a family member- regardless of the age of the victim.

Fathers most often accused in family-related sexual assaults against children and youth

Overall, when a family member was accused of sexually assaulting a child or youth, the majority of incidents were perpetrated by a male relative (98%). Considering only family-related sexual assaults, over one third of incidents were perpetrated by fathers¹⁵ (36%) followed by brothers¹⁶ (32%) and extended male relatives (28%). A female relative was accused in 2% of sexual assaults against children and youth reported to the police in 2003. A small percentage of family-related sexual assaults (1%) were perpetrated by the victim's spouse or ex-spouse, the majority of which were accused aged 14-24 years (82%).

Female youth (aged 14-to-17) were more likely to be sexually assaulted by a casual acquaintance

When considering only those sexual assaults involving accused persons from outside of the family, casual acquaintances were responsible for over half of all police-reported sexual assaults against female youth aged 14- to 17 (52%), followed by a close friend (20%) and a stranger (17%). Once again the age of these accused suggests that they are peers, as the majority were relatively young with 28% aged 14-17, and one quarter aged 18-to-24 (25%) and 16% aged 25-to-34.

Female youth (14-to-17) and young children (under 6) more likely to sustain minor injuries in sexual assaults

As stated earlier, the majority of child and youth victims of sexual assaults, reported to police, were instances of sexual assault level 1, unwanted sexual touching – which is an offence that generally does not result in an injury. As a result major injuries were not associated with this offence category. Minor injuries were sustained in 11% of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth in 2003. Young female victims under 6 (13%) and female youth aged 14-to-17 (14%) sustained the highest proportion of minor injuries relative to male victims and other age groups (Table 4).

In contrast to physical assaults experienced by children and youth, sexual assaults reported to police, in most instances, did not involve weapons causing an injury. For each age group, physical force was the most common method used to inflict injury (Table 5).

Two-thirds of reported sexual assaults took place in a private dwelling

Most sexual assaults reported to police occurred in private dwellings (67%) followed by streets, roads, open areas and highways (11%). Younger victims of sexual assaults (under 6) were more often assaulted in a private home (82%) than were older victims (Table 6). As was the pattern for physical assaults, as the age of the victim increased, the proportion of sexual assaults occurring in a private dwelling decreased while the proportion of assaults taking place outside a home increased. School was a location for 11% of sexual assaults against children aged 11-to-13 years (Table 6). For female youth (14-to-17 years) the second most common location of sexual assaults was a street, road, highway, parking lot or open area (17%).

Afternoon and late evening hours, peak hours of sexual assaults against youth¹⁷

Police-reported incidents of sexual assaults for victims under the age of 13 years occurred most often between three pm and seven pm. Almost one third of reported sexual assaults against victims of this age occurred during this four hour block (6-to-10 years, 29%; 11-to-13 years, 28%) while older youth aged 14-to-17 were at greater risk of sexual assault during the afternoon hours of 1 pm to 5 pm (23%) as well as between 10 pm and 2 am (21%).

Victims aged 6-to-10 years experienced the largest proportion of sexual assaults during the one hour period from four to five o'clock in the afternoon (11%). For older victims there was no one hour block of time which had a significantly higher proportion of reported sexual assaults.

Police-reported other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, 2003¹⁸

Risk of being a victim of threats, robberies and harassment increases with age

From age ten and onwards the rates of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence steadily increased (Figures 2 and 3). Males were victims in 6 out of 10 instances of police-reported "other violations involving violence or the threat of violence" against children and youth. At each age, males experienced a higher rate than female victims.

Children and youth were victims in 17% of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence reported to 122 police departments in 2003 (Table 1). These offences include robbery, extortion, uttering threats, and criminal harassment. Youth aged 14-to-17 were victims in 17% of all reported robberies and in 14% of all reported cases of extortion - a sizable proportion considering that this age group represents only 5% of the total population (Table 1). This reflects the reality

15. This includes biological, step, foster, or adoptive parents.

16. This includes biological, step, foster or adoptive brothers.

17. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six year of age.

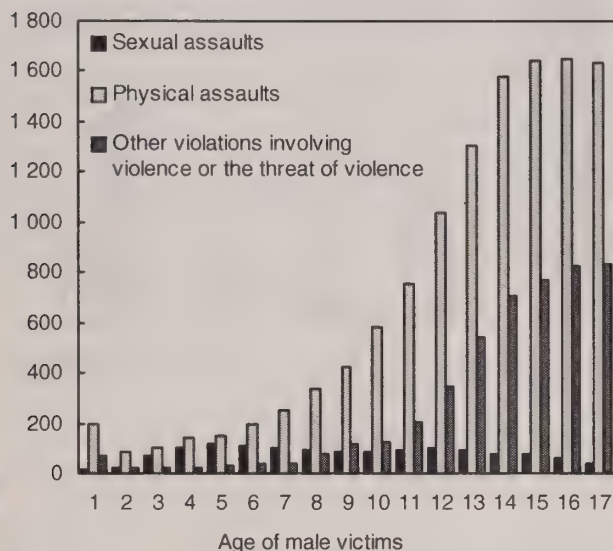
18. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence include the following offences; robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violent offences.

that once youth become consumers and owners of tangible goods they become targets of crimes related to goods. Among child and youth victims of other violent offences, those aged 14-to-17 predominated (67%), followed by victims aged 11-to-13 (22%), and victims aged 6-to-10 years (8%) (Table 1).

Figure 3

Rates of police-reported male victimization assault type and age, 2003^{1,2,3}

Rate per 100,000 population



1. Excludes cases where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.

2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Rate per 100,000 population per age, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence perpetrated by close friends, acquaintances and business relationships

In 2003, "other violations involving violence or the threat of violence" was the violent category that was least likely to be perpetrated by a family member. Eight percent of child and youth victims of police-reported violations involving violence or the threat of violence were assaulted by a family member. Overall, close friends, acquaintances and business relationships were the most common perpetrators (42%) followed by a stranger (40%) and unknown accused (10%). Further analysis of the data indicates that female youth victims of this type of assault (11-to-17) had a higher proportion of assaults perpetrated by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (53% of female victims aged 11-to-13 years and 55% of female victims aged 14-to-17 years) relative to their males counterparts (Table 3).

Persons accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence most often a peer

Over one fifth (22%) of persons accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence against a child or youth were females and 78% of accused were males. Females accused of these types of assaults against children and youth were predominately teens aged 14-to-17 years (44%) followed by accused aged 18-to-24 years (21%). The majority of females accused of this type of assault were considered a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (74%), in other words an individual who was a peer to the victim, followed by an unknown person (10%) or a stranger (8%). In most instances when the accused was a female the victim was a female (85%) – indicating that this is an assault which occurs between same-sex peers.

Similarly, males accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence were predominantly teens aged 14-to-17 years (41%) and aged 18-to-24 years (25%). The majority of male accused were also considered a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (63%) of the victim, while one fifth (21%) of male accused were strangers. As was the case with female accused, most males accused of robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment victimized another male (64%) and most often were from the same sex as their victim.

Injuries sustained by male youth

Overall, child and youth victims of robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence were less likely to sustain an injury as a result of the offence relative to victims of sexual and physical assaults. The exceptions were male victims aged 11-to-13 and males aged 14-to-17. Each of these victim groups sustained a larger proportion of injuries relative to other females and younger males. Over one fifth (21%) of male youth victims aged 14-to-17 sustained a minor injury and 2% sustained a major injury. Finally 15% of male victims aged 11-to-13 sustained a minor injury (Table 4).

Even though physical assaults resulted in a larger proportion of injured child and youth victims relative to other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, this latter category involved a larger proportion of injuries which were sustained with the use of a weapon. Of those victims injured with a weapon as the result of a violation involving violence or the threat of violence the majority of victims had been robbed (80%). Research suggests that robbery offenders are more likely to use a weapon in the commission of a crime relative to other offenders (Correctional Services of Canada, 1995), therefore resulting in more injuries that are related to the use of a weapon. Police-reported data indicate that one out of five youth victims of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (14-to-17 years) were injured with a weapon and the weapons that injured these victims were knives (8%), "other" weapons (6%) or clubs and blunt instruments (4%) (Table 5).

Location of offences such as uttering threats, robberies, harassment and other threats of violence

Offences such as uttering threats, robberies, harassment and other threats of violence more often transpired on streets, highways, in parking lots and open areas. Close to half of these types of offences involving males aged 11-to-13 years occurred in streets, parking lots and open areas (47%) followed by schools (21%). In contrast, female victims, as was the pattern with other types of assaults, had a higher proportion of assaults transpiring in a private dwelling (Table 6).

Time of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence¹⁹

When considering only offences such as robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other offences involving the threat of violence, the time of these offences was most often between three and seven o'clock for victims under the age of 13 years (41% of victims aged 6-to-10 years and 36% of victims aged 11-to-13 years). This was the same time pattern for both sexual and physical assaults for these age groups. Youth victims (aged 14-to-17 years) were at greatest risk in the four hour block between 7 pm and 11 pm (31%).

Homicides of Children and Youth

Infants (under 1) at highest risk of homicide

Male and female infants (under 1) were at highest risk of homicides with rates of 26 and 24 homicides per million infants (Figure 4). Older male teens (aged 14-to-17 years) were at greatest risk of homicides than females of the same age (Figure 4).

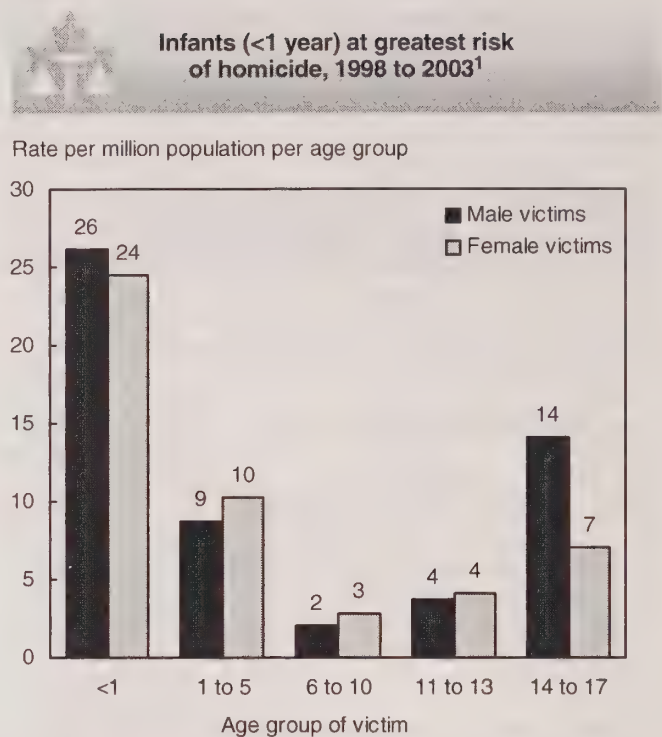
Between 1998 and 2003, there were 401 homicides of children and youth, of which 87% or 350 were solved. Of these solved homicides, over half (53%) were homicides of children under the age of six (Table 7). Two thirds (66%) of homicides against children and youth were committed by a family member and the majority of these were committed by the victim's father (60%), followed by the mother (32%), and other family members (9%).

Parents accused of killing their young child (under 6 years) were generally young parents aged 15-to-24 years (40%) while family members charged with killing an older youth (14-to-17 years) were all over the age of 30.

Close friends and acquaintances were the second most common perpetrator (15%), followed by strangers (11%). When considering only children under the age of 10 – the proportion of family-related homicides is 8 out of 10 solved homicides. In contrast, youth victims (14-to-17 years) were less likely to be killed by a family member (25%) and more likely to be killed by a close friend or acquaintance (37%) followed by a stranger (26%) (Table 7).

As was the case with other types of assaults, peers were more likely to be responsible for killing teens. Of those non-family homicides against victims 14-to-17 years of age, 38% of accused were aged 14-to-17 years and a further 29% were aged 18-to-20 years. In addition, 13% of homicides of youth 14-to-17 were gang related.

Figure 4



1. Rate per 1,000,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Considering only family homicides during this six year period, males and females were at equal risk of familial homicide (49% and 51% respectively). In contrast males were at greater risk of homicides perpetrated by persons from outside of the family (68% male and 32% female).

Prior history of offending

Less than one quarter of those accused of family-related homicides of children and youth had a known history of domestic violence against the victim (23%), while 37% had a previous conviction for a criminal offence. Of these, more than half of the convictions were for another violent act (53%) followed by a property offence (22%).

When considering only homicides of children and youth perpetrated by persons outside of the family, a larger proportion of accused had a previous criminal record (55%). Over half of these accused had a prior conviction for another violent offence (55%) followed by a property offence (20%). Among non-family related homicides involving victims aged 14-to-17 there exists a larger proportion of accused with a prior criminal history (62%), most often for a violent crime (53%).

Youngest homicide victims killed with physical force

As was the case with other types of assaults reported to the police, solved homicides of the youngest victims (under

19. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six years of age.

age 6) usually involved some form of physical force, for example, strangulation or suffocation (25%), beating (21%) and forceful shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) (24%). Youth victims of homicides aged 14-to-17 were more likely to be stabbed (41%), beaten (21%) or shot (20%) (Table 8).

When considering only infant homicides (<1 and 1 year olds) the proportion of victims killed as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) increases to 36%. After reviewing medical records, researchers have suggested that some cases of SBS may be misdiagnosed and as a result, underreported (King, et. al. 2003).

Frustration is the motive most often reported in homicides of children under 6 years of age

The youngest victims of homicide were most often killed as a result of frustration (63%). This is not surprising considering that the majority of offenders are parents using force. Conversely, youth victims (aged 14-to-17) were most often killed as a result of an argument (38%) followed by frustration (17%) revenge (8%) settling of accounts (5%) or jealousy (5%). As stated earlier, the majority of homicides of youth are committed by acquaintances and are often the result of an argument between peers.

Other Offences Involving Children and Youth

In addition to being the targets of violent offences, children and youth are also the target of offences that may not involve "violent" behaviours but in fact exploit and harm them. Children and youth are victims of several child-specific offences under the *Criminal Code* of Canada that are recorded but do not include a victim file. For example, child pornography is an offence where children and youth have been exploited through the capturing of their images in sexually explicit poses.

Textbox 3

Use of the Internet for the purposes of child sexual exploitation

Technology has provided another mechanism in which children and youth can be victimized. According to the Household Internet Use Survey, 64% of Canadian households had at least one member of the household who used the Internet on a regular basis (Statistics Canada, 2004). Faster computers and photo quality images have made it much easier to produce and distribute child pornography, both images and video. Once created, these images are easily distributed worldwide making it increasingly difficult to monitor or control. The Internet has also been used by sexual offenders as a means of luring children and youth into sexual situations. According to Jupiter, an internet based research company in the United States, once logged onto a computer, 50% of teens enter a chat room (Jupiter Research, 2003) where they may encounter individuals intent on luring them into a dangerous situation. Research suggests that many pedophiles are attracted by the anonymity offered by the Internet and as a result use it frequently as a means of seeking out vulnerable children to exploit. Consequently, the simple activity of surfing the Internet has become a situation where a child or youth could be placed at risk (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

The use of the Internet as a means of carrying out offences has resulted in many challenges for legislators and police personnel. First, the volume of potential investigations is overwhelming and as a result, police personnel are forced to prioritize their investigations. The borderless nature of these crimes and the number of offenders that are involved results in a significant amount of time and coordination between different police forces within Canada and between countries. Tracking the identity of persons through their Internet Service Provider is complicated, due to the fact that the identity of users can be stored

Child Pornography

Section 163 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada, states that it is an offence to produce, publish or distribute obscene material, recordings or pictures of children and youth. Child pornography victimizes and exploits children and youth by using photos and images depicting the individual as a sexual object and by distributing them for profit or other purposes.

According to the 122 police services that reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, in 2003, there were 166 persons charged with the production and distribution of child pornography. Almost all offenders were male (99%) and the majority were aged 25-to-54 years (53%).

The UCR Trend Data file, which collects data from 71 police services that have reported to the UCR consistently since 1998, reveals a significant increase in the number of reported incidents of child pornography between 1998 and 2003. Since 1998, there has been an eight-fold increase in the number of charges laid by police for child pornography, from a low of 20 charges in 1998 to a high of 159 charges in 2003.²⁰ This increase may be attributed to the proliferation and affordability of digital video and camera equipment coupled with the ease of transmitting images over the Internet as well as increased enforcement efforts and targeted detection by police forces.

According to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), between 1996 and 2003, offenders charged and found guilty of distributing child pornography were mostly sentenced to probation (52%), followed by prison (33%). Conviction rates for child pornography have increased from 41% of cases in 1999 to 58% in 2001, at which point the rate has remained relatively stable.

20. The UCR Trend Data file is comprised of 71 police services that have consistently reported to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and represents 46% of the national volume of crime. Aggregated counts from the UCR Trend Data file will not match that of the UCR2 file which has a larger coverage, 122 police services representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

in a geographical location away from the user, which is problematic when trying to obtain search warrants (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

Recently, the *Criminal Code* of Canada was amended to deal with sexually offensive material and behavior directed at children and carried out through the Internet. Bill C-15A makes it illegal to communicate with a child on the Internet with the purposes of sexual exploitation defined as sexual interference. This crime carries a penalty of up to five years of imprisonment. In addition, a prison sentence of up to ten years may be given to those individuals convicted of transmitting child pornography over the Internet, or posting child pornography on websites. Any person who intentionally accesses child pornography from the Internet may also face a prison term of up to five years (Baer, 2003).

The Bill also gives the court the power to order Internet service providers to remove any child pornography once it has been established that the material in question is in fact child pornography. The Bill allows judges to order the apprehension of equipment and material used in the creation and distribution of child pornography. Bill C-15A also gives power to the court to issue protective orders for children who are at risk of being victims of sexual offenders (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

Sources:

Baer, Nicole. 2003. Recent Criminal Code Updates Aim to Make the Justice System Sleeker, Techno-friendly. Department of Justice Canada.

Department of Justice Canada. 2001. Borders Conference – Rethinking the Line: The Canada – U.S. Border, Child Pornography on the Internet, Research and Statistics Division.

Textbox 4 Cybertip.ca

In May 2001, Child Find Manitoba (CFM) was mandated by the Manitoba Department of Justice to develop and implement a tip line to encourage individuals to report instances of online sexual exploitation of children, defined as child pornography, luring of children via the Internet, child sex tourism and child prostitution.

In September 2002, Child Find Manitoba launched *Cybertip.ca* whose mandate is to receive and analyse information from the public about possible illegal images, material and/or activities related to online sexual exploitation of children. When received, this information is reviewed by *Cybertip.ca* to determine whether or not it is in fact illegal. If found to be illegal, the information is then forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

During their first two years of operation *Cybertip.ca* has received over 1,200 reports related to child sexual exploitation from the public, of these, 87% deal with alleged child pornography, 10% with luring children, of which the majority of luring reports involved adolescent girls. The remaining 3% of reports involved sex tourism and child prostitution.

After reviewing these reports, 533 were forwarded to police agencies. This resulted in as many as 320 web sites being shut down, as well as 10 arrests and a further 48 under investigation.

In May of 2004 the Federal government announced plans to expand the *Cybertip.ca* program nationally and it was launched in January of 2005.

Source:

Unpublished report; Cybertip.ca Pilot Phase: Trends and Patterns of Victimization, Child Find Manitoba, 2005

Textbox 5 Sex Offender Information Registration Act

In April 2004, the Government of Canada created a national sex offender registration system which would allow police to have quick access to the most current information on convicted sex offenders. The *Sex Offender Information Registration Act* allows for the creation of a Sex Offender Database which will be maintained on the Canadian Police Information Centre computer system. The system requires that anyone convicted of a sexual offence to submit their address, telephone number, complete names and aliases and any identifying marks (tattoos) to the police. The database will include the names of offenders convicted of sex offences who are incarcerated, on parole or on probation for sex offences, as of the day the law takes effect. The database will not include offenders who completed their sentence prior to proclamation of the legislation. The database will help law enforcement by generating a list of all known sex offenders located near the scene of an offence (Department of Justice Canada, 2004).

Proposed legislative reforms

Bill C-2 which is currently before Parliament, proposes numerous reforms to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Criminal Evidence Act* that seek to enhance existing protections against child pornography by broadening the definition of child pornography; prohibiting advertising child pornography; increasing the maximum sentence on summary conviction and making the commission of any child pornography offence with intent to profit an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes; and providing a new two-part, harms-based "legitimate purpose" defence for child pornography.

In addition, Bill C-2 proposes to create a new prohibition against the sexual exploitation of young persons between 14 - 18 years of age. Bill C-2 proposes additional sentencing reforms including requiring sentencing courts, in all cases involving the abuse of a child, to give primary consideration to the denunciation and deterrence of such conduct. Bill C-2 also proposes numerous reforms to facilitate the receipt of testimony by all child victims/witnesses under the age of 18 years. (Department of Justice Canada, 2004).

Textbox 6 Sex Tourism, a global problem

International Dimensions of the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Global Report

The International Tribunal for Children's Rights defines the globalization of child sexual exploitation as involving three different typologies; child pornography, child prostitution and the sexual trafficking of children. Sex tourism is defined as commercially organized travel and services, often across international borders, for individuals who desire to purchase sexual services, often from young children, who are citizens of the country being traveled to.

Sex tourism is a problem in countries where there is a high degree of poverty, such as South East Asia and several countries in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Sex tours are advertised on the Internet – selling images of an exotic location and a willing sexual partner. Offenders travel to another country under the belief that their sexual involvement with young boys and girls will not be punishable in the host country.

Bill C-27 amends the *Criminal Code* of Canada in order that any Canadian or a permanent resident of Canada who partakes in any form of sexual exploitation in another country will be prosecuted. The maximum sentence for this offence is 5 to 14 years imprisonment.

Source:

International Dimension of the Sexual Exploitation of Children: Global Report. 2001. International Bureau for Children's Rights.

Response of Criminal Courts to offenders charged with age-specific sexual offences against children and youth²¹

In Canada, there are several sexual offences which are defined by the age of the victim, sexual interference involving children under the age of 14, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation and incest²² (see Textbox 1). Court data provides a means of determining who is being charged with these child-specific offences and how they are being dealt with by the courts.

Between 1994 and 2003 there were just under 21,000 cases before the courts in Canada involving sexual offences against children. Of these, the majority were cases of sexual interference (74%) followed by sexual exploitation of a child, by a person of authority or power (13%) and invitation to sexual touching (10%). The majority of conviction outcomes for these cases were stayed, dismissed, withdrawn or discharged at a preliminary inquiry (64%), while in over one third (36%) the offender was found guilty. Almost all of those persons found guilty of these offences were male (98%), and of these over half (54%) were aged 25-to-44 years.

Those offenders found guilty of sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation or incest against a child or youth were more likely to obtain a prison sentence than any other form of sentencing. In 58% of the cases, the offender received a prison sentence. The high proportion of offenders sentenced to prison is similar to research which found that in single conviction cases of sexual assaults against children and

21. Sexual offences refer to subsections; 151-sexual interference under 14, 152-invitation to sexual touching, 153-sexual exploitation, position of trust and/or authority, (between the ages of 14 and 18), 155-incest, 170-parent procuring sexual activity under 18 and 171-household permitting sexual activity under 18.

22. The Adult Criminal Court Survey does not collect information on the age of the victim, therefore it is not possible to identify whether the victim is under the age of 18. Given the nature of incestuous relationships, however, it is likely that the majority of incest cases involve a minor and not an adult child.

youth, 42% of offenders received a prison sentence (Gannon & Brzozowski, 2004). The length of prison sentences varied widely with a length of 90 days of incarceration being the most likely (13%) followed by 180 days (11%).

Abductions and kidnapping of children and youth

Another form of victimization of children and youth is the physical removal of a child. There are two offences that describe this form of victimization, abduction and kidnapping. A kidnapping involves the physical removal of a victim against his/her will; in contrast abduction involves the removal of a child without the consent of the legal guardian.

According to the *Criminal Code* of Canada there are two categories of abduction - parental and non-parental. Non-parental abductions can be further subdivided based on the age of the child, either under 14 or under 16 years of age. Researchers have found that there are several characteristics specific to non-parental abductions - the motivation of the abduction is for profit, sexual or emotional reasons and the victim is often chosen based on their sex, age or the perpetrator's motivation (Dalley, 2002).

In 2003, 134 non-parental abductions were reported to 122 police departments. Over half of these incidents were carried out by a stranger (57%) followed by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (14%). Children aged 6-to-13 years were victims in over half of these incidents (66%) followed by children under the age of 6 (23%). In over six out of ten cases the victim was female.

Injuries sustained as a result of these abductions were few with 1% of victims experiencing a major injury and 8% a minor injury in known cases of injury. As would be expected with the relatively few injuries sustained in these abductions, very few weapons were used in non-parental abductions. Only in one in ten cases of non-parental abductions the accused employed physical force and 1% used some type of weapon which resulted in the victim sustaining an injury.

Parental abductions are also categorized into two subgroups based on whether or not the guardianship of the child has been established. "Parental abduction that is in contravention of a custody order" occurs when a non-custodial parent abducts his/her child. The second form of parental abduction is an instance where a custody order does not exist and a parent takes the child. Parental abductions are often the end result of dissension during divorce and custody proceedings. Researchers suggest that the reasons parents abduct their children include revenge, a need to have the child entirely to themselves, psychological problems of the abducting parent, disagreements over custody and concerns over the safety of the child (Dalley, 2000).

According to the 122 police forces reporting to the UCR2, in 2003 there were a total of 157 parental abductions of children, the majority of which (68%) were instances where the abduction was in contravention of a custody order. Of these cases the majority of victims were under the age of 11 (85%). In instances of parental abductions, the offender was more likely to be a father (60%) than a mother (40%). This is reflective of the fact that more mothers have historically obtained sole custody of their children than fathers (Daily, Divorces, May 4, 2004)

Textbox 7

Missing Children - RCMP Data

Majority of missing children are runaway children

According to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) maintained by the RCMP, over 67,000 children were reported missing in 2003. The majority of these cases were in fact runaway children (79%). There are a multitude of reasons why a child may choose to run away from home and may include, escaping family conflict, emotional, sexual or physical abuse, problems at school or drug abuse. The process of running away is seen by the child or youth as a coping strategy to a problem that they are unable to solve (Dalley, 2004).

Characteristics of a runaway include; having significant problems at school, not being involved in school or community sports, coming from a home with a high degree of conflict, and lacking the necessary skills or training to secure employment (Dalley, 1993).

In 2003, more young females were runaways than males (59% and 41% respectively). A large majority of the missing children were aged 12-to-17 years (96%), a finding that is similar to previous years. Data from the CPIC determined that of these runaway children, 75% were classified as having habitual missing characteristics, with less than one quarter of the runaways (24%) not having a prior history of running away. When children were reported missing, over one third (34%) were reported missing from the family home (Dalley, 2004).

Year-end comparisons from 1993 to 2002 show an increase in the total number of reported missing children per year. During this ten year period the lowest number of missing children occurred in 1994 at 51,973 which had increased by 21% in 2001 to 66,994 which has since dropped slightly (Dalley, 2004).

More than one-quarter of court abduction cases results in a finding of guilt

Between 1994 and 2003, over 1,200 abduction cases were before the courts in Canada, six out of ten of these were stayed, dismissed, withdrawn or discharged at a preliminary inquiry and in just over one quarter (28%) of these cases the offender was found guilty.

The majority of abduction cases before the courts during this ten-year period were cases of parental abduction (67%). In over one quarter of parental abduction cases the parent was found guilty (27%). Parents found guilty of abducting their child were evenly split between mothers and fathers (50% each). About one third (31%) of these parents were sentenced to prison. More fathers found guilty of abductions were given prison sentences than mothers (37% and 25% respectively).

Over half of the cases (56%) before the courts concerning non-parental abduction of children and youth were stayed. The majority of these offenders were male (72%) and over one-fifth of these were aged 18-to-24 years (22%). Offenders of non-parental abductions were more likely than parents to be found guilty. In less than one third of the cases the offender was found guilty (30%). Non-parent offenders were also more likely to receive a prison sentence (40%) than parents (31%). During this ten-year period, conviction rates have remained relatively stable, ranging from a low of 19% in 1994 to a high of 41% in 2002/03.

Female youth more likely than males to be victims of kidnapping and forcible confinement

Kidnapping or forcible confinement is described in the *Criminal Code* as instances where a person is confined against his/her will, held for ransom against his/her will or is transported out of Canada against his/her will. According to the UCR2 Survey,

there were 469 kidnapping incidents of children under the age of 18 years reported to 122 police departments in 2003 which represented 18% of all kidnappings.

Teenaged girls aged 14-to-17 were more likely than all other age groups, to be victims of kidnapping (43%), followed by males of the same age group (21%). Some researchers believe that the primary motive for kidnapping is sexual assault which would explain females' greater risk of being victims of this type of offence (Finkelhor & Dzuiba-Leatherman, 1994). Of these victims, a larger proportion were kidnapped by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (54% female victims and 46% male victims).

In incidents involving a kidnapping offence, over one half (64%) involved additional offences. Of these additional offences, 39% were physical assaults, 21% sexual assaults and 17% were other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

More than four out of ten kidnapping incidents were perpetrated by a close friend, acquaintance, or a business relationship (42%), while over one third of the incidents were perpetrated by a stranger (34%). Only a very few cases of kidnapping involved a family member (15%) – of those that were perpetrated by a family member the victims were primarily young (56% under 11 years of age).

Impact of childhood victimization on individuals and society as a whole

Recently researchers have attempted to quantify the “societal costs” of violence against children and youth, that is what are the costs to society as a whole that go beyond those experienced by the victim and his/her family. Studies which attempt to quantify the magnitude of the impacts of abuse and violence hope to point to the importance of investing in services for the prevention and protection of victims of violence. A recent study, funded by the Law Commission of Canada and carried out by researchers at the University of Western Ontario, determined that the economic costs of child abuse in Canada was measured at a “conservative” 15.7 billion (for 1998). The authors of this report defined abuse as involving physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and witnessing violent behaviour. Researchers used data from provincial and federal budgets, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect and the 1990 Ontario Health Survey Mental Health Supplement to arrive at their cost estimate. Estimated delivery and program costs were placed in a model containing the following major categories: education, employment, health, judicial, personal and social services (Bowlus, et. al. 2003).

According to the study, victims experienced significant financial burdens associated with the abuse (15% of the total estimated cost). Costs paid out to deal with legal proceedings, therapies, both counselling and drug, were just a few of the personal costs described. In addition to the personal costs paid out by the victim, researchers stated that the largest cost (70% of the total estimated cost) was assumed by adult survivors in lost employment income. Researchers stated that many victims of abuse experience behavioural problems and learning problems which result in lower levels of educational

achievement. Consequently, these victims are unable to secure employment or their level of employment is somewhat low. In addition, the long term impacts of abuse may also lead to high rates of absenteeism and addictions which would have a negative impact on a victim's ability to secure stable employment (Bowlus, et. al., 2003).

In addition to the personal costs carried by victims, researchers attributed 13% of the total estimated cost towards societal costs, defined as social program costs which included services provided to victims of abuse, both privately and publicly funded programs; health costs for short and long term impacts of abuse; judicial costs (for example policing, court trials and legal aid costs); and educational costs to provide special education programs for victims of abuse who often experienced learning and/or behavioural problems as a result of the abuse (Bowlus, et. al., 2003). While beyond the scope of the Law Commission study, other societal impacts of violence in childhood that have been identified by researchers include the capacity of adult survivors to parent children and maintain a healthy and safe family and intimate partner relationships.

Methodology

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime reporting (UCR2) survey collected detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2003, detailed data were collected from 122 police services in 9 provinces representing 61% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* incidents. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data that permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of incidents, accused and victims, such as the victim-accused relationship. This database currently includes 71 police services that have reported to the UCR2 Survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961 and began collecting data on family-related homicides in 1974. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred. In 1991 and 1997, the survey was revised and expanded to include additional variables, such as previous conviction histories of the accused and victim, employment of the accused and victim, victim's use of force at the time of the incident, and Shaken Baby Syndrome as a cause of death.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides statistical information on the processing of cases through provincial/territorial adult criminal court systems. A case is defined in the ACCS as one or more charges against an accused person or corporation that receive a final decision on the same day. Charges in each case are ranked according to the type of final decision and the charge with the most serious decision is used to represent the case.

The 2003/04 reference period represents the first time that a ten year time-series (1994/95 to 2003/04) is available from the ACCS for analysis at 80% coverage of the national adult criminal court caseload. This section reviews trends for the eight jurisdictions that have participated every year in the ACCS during that ten year period. The eight jurisdictions are: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon.

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Table 1

**Victims of physical and sexual assaults and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence,
by age group, reported to a subset of police departments, 2003^{1,2}**

Offence	Number and proportion of children and youth victims (under age 18)										Number of children and youth victims (under 18) and proportion of total victims	Number of adult victims (over 18) and proportion of total victims		
	Total victims		under 6		6 to 10 years		11 to 13 years		14 to 17 years					
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%				
Sexual assault – Total	15,319	100	1,261	8	2,251	15	2,556	17	3,284	21	9,352	61	5,967	39
Aggravated sexual assault	105	100	3	3	10	10	8	8	22	21	43	41	62	59
Sexual assault with a weapon	244	100	1	0	9	4	14	6	43	18	67	27	177	73
Sexual assault	13,329	100	1,044	8	1,800	14	2,061	15	2,964	22	7,869	59	5,460	41
Other sexual crimes ³	1,641	100	213	13	432	26	473	29	255	16	1,373	84	268	16
Physical assault – Total	135,366	100	1,385	1	3,692	3	6,927	5	15,949	12	27,953	21	107,413	79
Assault level 3	1,873	100	62	3	8	0	12	1	173	9	255	14	1,618	86
Assault level 2	28,910	100	231	1	651	2	1,167	4	3,523	12	5,572	19	23,338	81
Assault level 1	98,298	100	1,048	1	3,001	3	5,695	6	12,075	12	21,819	22	76,479	78
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	595	100	14	2	3	1	15	3	71	12	103	17	492	83
Discharge firearm with intent	98	100	1	1	4	4	12	12	7	7	24	24	74	76
Assault against peace-public officer	4,228	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,228	100
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	180	100	20	11	1	1	3	2	39	22	63	35	117	65
Other assaults ⁴	1,184	100	9	1	24	2	23	2	61	5	117	10	1,067	90
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵ - Total	66,630	100	379	1	891	1	2,499	4	7,506	11	11,275	17	55,355	83
Robbery	20,758	100	18	0	203	1	921	4	3,471	17	4,613	22	16,145	78
Extortion	810	100	5	1	10	1	60	7	113	14	188	23	622	77
Criminal harassment	10,547	100	12	0	68	1	263	2	839	8	1,182	11	9,365	89
Uttering threats	34,034	100	255	1	539	2	1,228	4	3,064	9	5,086	15	28,948	85
Explosive causing harm/arson	119	100	2	2	4	3	5	4	6	5	17	14	102	86
Other violent violations ⁶	362	100	87	24	67	19	22	6	13	4	189	52	173	48
Total violent violations	217,315		3,025		6,834		11,982		26,739		48,580		168,735	

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative. Data are based on a sample of 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

3. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey groups other sexual crimes including sexual interference, sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, etc., into one category.

4. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey groups other assaults, including unlawfully causing bodily harm and criminal negligence causing bodily harm, etc., into one category.

5. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/arson and other violent violations.

6. Other violent violations includes abandoning a child, accessory after the fact to murder, conceal body of a child and other offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 2

Child and youth rates of victimization of sexual assault, physical assault and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, reported to a subset of police departments, 1998-2003^{1,2,3}

Year	Sexual assault ⁴				Physical assault ⁵				Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶			
	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17
	rate											
1998	99	164	261	260	95	249	755	1,234	..	..	..	..
1999	97	157	253	258	89	230	750	1,246	27	52	297	639
2000	100	155	287	293	99	253	812	1,371	26	64	300	708
2001	100	163	290	269	98	240	755	1,363	28	54	283	653
2002	107	176	294	281	107	242	732	1,346	27	54	250	635
2003	102	160	276	269	101	232	697	1,292	32	62	273	660

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or the age of the victim was unknown.

2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 71 police departments, representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Rate per 100,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography division, Statistics Canada.

4. Sexual assault includes sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, aggravated sexual assault and the "other sexual crimes" category which includes sexual interference, sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, etc.

5. Physical assault includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and other assaults.

6. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence including robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm and other violent violations. Rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence are not presented for 1998 as some of these violations were not in existences for the entire year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database.

Table 3

Age group and type of assault by accused relationship to victim, 2003^{1,2,3}

Relationship of accused to victim	Total	Age group, sex and type of assault											
		<6			6-to-10			11 -to-13			14-to-17		
		Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
no.													
Physical assault													
Total physical assaults	27,953	1,385	583	802	3,692	1,181	2,511	6,927	2,366	4,561	15,949	6,705	9,247
%													
Total family		63	64	62	33	40	30	18	26	14	16	24	10
Parent ⁴		55	57	53	27	33	24	12	18	9	8	12	5
Sibling ⁵		4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	4	5	3
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
Other Family ⁷		4	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	1
Total non-family		26	26	27	57	50	61	73	67	77	75	68	79
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸		18	18	19	44	39	46	56	52	58	52	53	52
Stranger		8	8	8	14	11	15	17	15	18	22	15	28
Unknown		11	10	11	10	10	10	9	8	9	9	8	11
no.													
Sexual assault													
Total sexual assaults	9,352	1,261	858	403	2,251	1,595	556	2,556	2,122	434	3,284	2,917	367
%													
Total family		50	50	50	44	47	37	28	29	25	20	20	21
Parent ⁴		24	26	17	14	15	11	11	11	10	10	10	9
Sibling ⁵		14	13	18	16	17	16	9	10	8	4	4	6
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Other Family ⁷		12	11	14	14	15	11	8	9	7	6	6	6
Total non-family		41	41	42	49	46	56	66	65	68	71	72	69
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸		37	36	38	39	36	46	54	53	57	53	52	57
Stranger		4	5	3	10	10	10	12	12	11	19	20	13
Unknown		8	8	9	7	7	7	6	6	7	8	8	10
no.													
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence ⁹													
Total other violations involving violence or the threat of violence	11,275	379	166	213	891	341	550	2,499	875	1,624	7,506	3,049	4,457
%													
Total family		54	58	51	22	29	17	6	7	5	5	8	2
Parent ⁴		45	49	43	17	23	13	3	4	2	1	2	1
Sibling ⁵		4	5	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
Other Family ⁷		4	4	5	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total non-family		36	31	39	66	55	73	85	81	87	86	81	99
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸		16	14	17	38	30	42	45	53	41	43	55	35
Stranger		20	16	22	28	25	30	39	27	46	43	26	55
Unknown		10	11	9	13	16	11	9	12	8	9	11	8

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

2. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Includes sexual and physical assaults and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

4. Includes biological, step, foster and adoptive parents.

5. Sibling includes biological, step, half, foster or adoptive siblings.

6. Includes legally married, common-law, separated and divorced partners.

7. Other family include all others related to victim through blood, marriage, foster care or adoption.

8. In some incidents the close friend, acquaintance or business relationship may be an accused person who is associated with the parent or another relative of the victim.

9. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 4

Level of injury by sex, age group and type of assault, 2003^{1,2}

Sex of victim, by age group and offence type

Level of injury	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
%												
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	31	31	32	45	46	44	44	44	43	34	38	32
Minor injuries ⁴	50	50	49	44	43	45	48	48	48	55	53	56
Major injuries ⁵	7	8	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	6
Unknown	12	11	12	10	11	10	7	7	7	7	8	7
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	66	66	66	74	73	75	77	77	78	72	71	76
Minor injuries ⁴	11	13	9	8	8	7	8	8	6	13	14	8
Major injuries ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	23	22	25	18	18	17	15	15	17	15	15	15
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁶	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	81	82	80	83	89	80	79	86	76	76	85	70
Minor injuries ⁴	4	4	4	5	2	7	12	7	15	16	8	21
Major injuries ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2
Unknown	15	15	16	12	8	13	9	7	10	7	6	7

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

3. No visible injury was observed at the time of the incident though weapons or physical force was used.

4. Minor injuries are defined as those that require no professional medical treatment or only some first aid.

5. Major injuries are defined as those requiring professional medical attention at the scene of the crime or requiring transportation to a medical facility.

6. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 5

Method of violence causing injury against children and youth by age and type of assault, 2003^{1,2,3}

Method of violence	Sex, age group by assault type											
	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
	%											
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	78	78	78	70	66	71	77	78	76	76	81	73
Unknown/No weapon	10	11	8	10	9	10	8	8	8	7	7	7
Weapons - Total	12	10	14	20	24	18	15	15	16	17	12	20
Club, blunt instrument	2	2	2	4	5	4	3	2	3	4	2	6
Knife ⁵	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	4	3	5
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Other weapon ⁷	9	8	10	13	18	11	9	10	9	8	7	9
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	85	84	88	72	70	77	67	69	59	74	75	65
Unknown/No weapon	14	15	12	26	27	21	31	29	39	23	22	27
Weapons - Total	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	8
Club, blunt instrument	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Knife ⁵	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other weapon ⁷	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	7
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁴	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	x	x	x	54	37	58	67	51	73	64	54	67
Unknown/No weapon	0	0	0	32	47	28	17	26	14	15	25	12
Weapons - Total	x	x	x	15	16	14	16	24	14	21	21	21
Club, blunt instrument	0	0	0	3	5	3	3	2	3	4	1	5
Knife ⁵	0	0	0	4	5	5	5	6	5	8	9	8
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	2	3	2
Other weapon ⁷	x	x	x	6	5	7	5	11	4	6	8	6

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

1. Includes only those cases where sex and age of victim was known.

2. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 121 police departments, representing 54% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Due to data quality issues that result in physical force being coded as "other", Toronto police force is excluded from the analysis on methods of violence.

4. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations. The majority of incidents which resulted in an injury as the result of a weapon use were robberies.

5. Knife includes "other cutting/piercing instrument".

6. Firearms include fully automatic firearms, sawed off rifles, handguns, rifles and other firearm like weapons.

7. Other weapons might include vehicles, pepper spray, whips, and other objects that may be used for strangulation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 6

Location of assault by type of assault and age group, 2003^{1,2}

Location	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
%												
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	75	76	75	45	50	42	29	38	24	30	42	22
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	8	7	8	6	6	6	10	10	11	13	11	14
School	3	3	3	17	16	18	25	21	28	20	16	22
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	3
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	9	9	9	27	22	29	30	26	32	31	24	35
Unknown	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	3	4
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	82	83	81	77	78	74	62	62	64	58	57	65
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	3	3	4	4	4	5	7	6	12	10	9	11
School	2	2	2	3	3	4	11	12	7	8	8	6
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	3	4	2	9	8	10	12	13	8	16	17	9
Unknown	8	7	11	6	6	7	6	6	8	6	6	7
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	72	76	68	41	48	37	22	32	17	27	41	18
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	11	12	11	5	4	6	9	8	10	16	18	15
School	1	1	0	16	16	16	23	26	21	14	15	12
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	6	3	7
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	15	11	17	35	29	39	41	28	47	35	19	46
Unknown	2	0	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	2

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative. Data are based on 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where the age and sex of the victim is known.

3. Includes commercial dwelling units - apartment buildings.

4. Includes public institutions.

5. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 7

Solved homicides of youth and children by relationship of accused to victim, 1998 - 2003

Relationship of accused to victim	Age of victim									
	Total		< 6 years		6-to-10 years		11-to-13 years		14-to-17 years	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Total family homicides	230	66	157	85	25	83	21	72	27	25
Father ¹	137	39	91	49	23	77	12	41	11	10
Mother ¹	73	21	62	34	2	7	5	17	4	4
Other family ²	20	6	4	2	0	0	4	14	12	11
Total non-family homicides	120	34	28	15	5	17	8	28	79	75
Close friend/acquaintance	54	15	8	4	3	10	4	14	39	37
Ex/current intimate partner	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Authority figure ³	15	4	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stranger	39	11	5	3	2	7	4	14	28	26
Criminal relationship	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Total solved homicides⁴	350	100	185	100	30	100	29	100	106	100

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. Includes biological, step, foster and adoptive parents.

2. Other Family include all other related to victim through blood, marriage, foster care or adoption.

3. Authority figures include teacher, doctor, baby-sitter, priest, etc..

4. Between 1998-2003, 401 children and youth were killed, but for the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8

Cause of death for child and youth homicides by age group, 1998-2003

Cause of death	Age group of victim									
	Total		< 6		6-to-10		11-to-13		14-to-17	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Total¹	350	100	185	100	30	100	29	100	106	100
Shooting	49	14	10	5	10	33	8	28	21	20
Stabbing	67	19	14	8	5	17	5	17	43	41
Beating	66	19	39	21	3	10	2	7	22	21
Strangulation, suffocation	76	22	47	25	9	30	9	31	11	10
Shaken baby syndrome	45	13	45	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other ²	41	12	25	14	3	10	4	14	9	8
Unknown	6	2	5	3	0	0	1	3	0	0

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. Between 1998-2003, 401 children and youth were killed, but for the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

2. Other includes poisoning, smoke inhalation, burns, exposure and other causes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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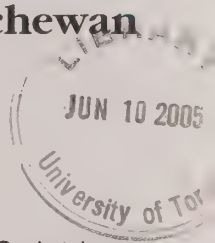
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Returning to Correctional Services after release: A profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04

by Sara Johnson



Highlights

- Approximately 25,000 people completed at least one continuous period of supervision (*involvement*) in Saskatchewan adult correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004.
- Aboriginal adults comprised 57% of those involved in a correctional service compared to 10% of the Saskatchewan adult population.
- In Saskatchewan, 5.2% of Aboriginal adults were involved in correctional services compared to 0.3% of non-Aboriginal adults.
- Women represented almost double the proportion of the Aboriginal correctional population (19%) as the non-Aboriginal correctional population (10%) in Saskatchewan.
- Aboriginal persons supervised by Saskatchewan correctional services are younger, have a lower level of education and have poorer employment histories than non-Aboriginal persons.
- Among the almost 5,500 person released from correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000, 22% returned within one year, 34% within two years, 41% within three years, and 45% within four years.
- The proportion of persons involved four years after release differed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, with 57% of Aboriginal persons returning versus 28% of non-Aboriginal persons.
- Aboriginal adults were also more likely to have a larger number of re-involvements in the Saskatchewan correctional system than non-Aboriginal persons: they were three times more likely to have three re-involvements (9% versus 3%) and five times more likely to be re-involved four or more times (11% versus 2%).
- Rates of re-involvement in correctional services increased more rapidly for Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons, with 29% of Aboriginal adults versus 13% of non-Aboriginal adults returning during the first twelve months following release.
- Characteristics found to be related to re-involvement included gender, age, nature of the involvement (community only, custody only, community and custody), number of criminogenic needs¹ identified, most serious offence type and number of previous correctional involvements.
- Approximately 25% of all persons released in any one year were returned to correctional supervision within one year of release. This rate was found to be similar from year-to-year across four years.

1. Criminogenic needs refer to needs or problems that are more directly related to offending than others.



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Introduction

Background

According to the 2001 census, among all provinces in Canada, Saskatchewan has one of the largest proportionate representations of Aboriginal people – 10% of the adult population.² Moreover, Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system (Quann and Trevethan, 2000; Johnson, 2004). The representation of Aboriginal people has been increasing in the Saskatchewan correctional system since the early 1980's. For example, while Aboriginal people represented 60% of sentenced custody and 38% of probation admissions in 1980/81, they represented 78% and 65% respectively in 2003/04.³ This situation is likely to persist or worsen. According to the 2001 census, young people under the age of 19 comprise half of the Aboriginal population compared to just a quarter of the non-Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. As a result, there will be an increasingly large proportion of Aboriginal people in the 'at-risk' to commit crime age cohorts of the late teens and early 20's in upcoming years.

The social circumstances and the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian criminal justice system have been repeatedly identified as social and criminal justice issues by numerous reports, commissions and inquiries (e.g. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996; the Donald Marshall Inquiry, Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr., Prosecution, 1989; Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, 1991; the Cawsey Commission of Alberta, Department of Justice Alberta, 1991; Saskatchewan Indian Justice Reviews, Patricia Linn, 1992; Amnesty International, 2004). As recently as 2004, the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform reaffirmed the magnitude of this problem in Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan, 2004).

Given the level of over-representation of Aboriginal people in the Saskatchewan correctional system, and the increasingly larger 'at-risk' age cohort, developing a better understanding of criminal pathways and recidivism, particularly as it pertains to Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system, is especially important.

Current report

This *Juristat* examines the case histories and correctional outcomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons under provincial supervision in adult correctional services in Saskatchewan in the years 1999/00 through 2003/04. This is the first report analyzing data from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS). This *Juristat* begins by describing the delivery of correctional services in Canada, and in particular Saskatchewan, and provides a discussion of the correlates of criminal behaviour. This is followed by a description of the data sources and methodologies employed in this report. Characteristics of persons supervised under the adult provincial correctional system in Saskatchewan between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004, are explored, as well as the nature of their involvement in the adult correctional system in Saskatchewan. Lastly, re-involvement profiles of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in the Saskatchewan correctional system and the factors related to re-involvement are examined.

Correlates of criminal conduct

Previous research has determined that several factors are correlated with offending and re-offending. These factors include demographic factors such as age (being young), sex (being male) and belonging to a disadvantaged minority group (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997). However, the impact of these factors may be reduced substantially by paying more attention to the major criminogenic risk factors cited in the literature (see text box 5 for more information). These major risk factors include:

2. According to the 2001 census, 11% of the adult population in Manitoba was Aboriginal.
3. Statistics Canada, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text box 1: The delivery of correctional services in Canada

The correctional system in Canada is divided between services provided to adults, who are generally 18 years of age or older, and youth, who are between the ages of 12 and 17 at the time of the commission or alleged commission of an offence. Youth correctional services are provided solely by the provinces and territories. Adult offenders serving two years or more in prison (penitentiary) are the responsibility of the Correctional Service of Canada, an agency of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for adult offenders serving custodial sentences of less than two years, as well as those sentenced to probation, conditional sentences, or other community sentences, and persons being held in pre-trial detention (remand) or temporary detention, or being managed under bail supervision or fine option programs. This *Juristat* profiles adults under the jurisdiction of provincial correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety is the department providing correctional services in Saskatchewan. The Adult Corrections Division is responsible for care, control and supervision of adult offenders. Services provided by the Adult Corrections Division are delivered through two branches: the Community Operations Branch and the Institutional Operations Branch.⁴ Community correctional services are organized into six regions. Institutional operations exist in four major correctional centres (Pine Grove Correctional Centre, Prince Albert Provincial Correctional Centre, Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, Saskatoon Provincial Correctional Centre), and seven reduced-custody facilities (Battleford and Buffalo Narrows Community Correctional Centres, Besnard Lake Camp and Saskatoon Urban Camp, and community training residences in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert). Contracts with the Elizabeth Fry Society (Saskatoon women's community training residence) and the Prince Albert Grand Council (Healing Lodge) also allow for reduced-custody services to be provided. Community and Institutional Northern services are administered through the North West Community Operations office in North Battleford and sub-offices in Meadow Lake, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche, as well as the North East Community Operations office located in Prince Albert and sub-offices in Melfort, Laronge and Creighton.

- Personal attitudes, values and beliefs that are supportive of crime (i.e., antisocial attitudes and cognitions)
- Social support for criminal activities (i.e., antisocial associates)
- Temperament/personality (i.e., antisocial personality patterns)
- Personal history of antisocial behaviour
- Family or marital problems
- Educational or vocational difficulties
- Other criminogenic need areas such as generalized indifference to the opinion of others, alcohol and drug abuse, the aimless use of leisure time, and a disorganized lifestyle
- Family of origin problems, such as family history of criminality or antisocial attitudes (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997, p. 4)

In examining the re-involvement outcomes of persons involved in correctional services, several of these risk factors will be examined in this report. Factors examined include gender, age, Aboriginal identity, and criminogenic needs such as substance abuse, employment, attitude, social interaction, family/marital, and personal/emotional needs.

Data sources and methods

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) is a person-based survey that is currently being implemented by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in jurisdictions across Canada. The ICSS represents the first effort by the CCJS to collect detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services in Canada. These microdata are collected through three distinct records organized by (1) person (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, Aboriginal identity, etc.); (2) legal status such as sentenced custody, remand, probation and the characteristics of the status (e.g., aggregate sentence length, convicted offences, etc.); and, (3) events that pertain to the supervision (e.g., escapes, temporary absence, conditions of supervision, breaches of probation, parole and conditional sentences, rehabilitation programs, etc.).

Through an annual data extraction process in jurisdictions reporting to the survey, the ICSS database is updated with any new correctional supervision activity that occurred over the survey year. The result is the creation of a longitudinal database of the case histories of all persons involved in correctional services. These case histories can be examined in relation to concepts such as offence and supervision histories, breaches of conditional release, the length of time between admissions as well as the characteristics of involved persons, such as Aboriginal identity, education, etc. In addition, the survey collects information on important indicators such as the assessment of offender needs, conditions attached to conditional releases, probation and conditional sentences, and security concerns associated with offenders under correctional supervision.

This *Juristat* is based on five years of data from Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) for Saskatchewan for the years 1999/00 to 2003/04. These data comprise all persons involved in correctional services at any time during this five year period from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004, and include persons who started involvement prior to April 1, 1999 but whose involvement continued beyond this date, as well as persons whose involvement extended beyond March 31, 2004, but commenced prior to this date. The correctional service history prior to or following involvements contained during these years is not included in the database. That is, data on prior correctional involvements, including those of other administrative jurisdictions, that ended prior to April 1, 1999 are not available, nor are those that began after March 31, 2004. Therefore, all references to the first admission to correctional involvement only pertain to involvements during this time frame that were supervised directly by the provincial correctional authority in Saskatchewan.

Follow-up analyses excluded cases where remand, bail supervision and/or some types of temporary detention (police lock-up, immigration hold, or other types of holds such as for material witnesses) were the only types of correctional services the individual experienced during the release cohort period

4. Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety. 2004-05 Saskatchewan Provincial Budget – Performance Plan. Regina, Saskatchewan. Adresse électronique: www.cps.gov.sk.ca.

examined. That is, persons who only participated in these correctional service types during their correctional involvement were excluded from the release cohort; however, persons whose involvement included remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses accompanied by another type of correctional service were included. These exclusions were made in order to minimize the likelihood that re-involvements detected were not, in fact, regarding the same matter for which an offender was initially involved. Re-involvements on remand were included.

Involvement as a unit of measure

The ICSS assembles correctional information, which is organized according to *involvements*, defined as a continuous period of direct supervision within a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. This continuous period of time may include more than one type of correctional service (e.g., sentenced custody, conditional sentence, probation, etc.) as long as there are no breaks in supervision (see Text box 4 for more specific information). This unit of measure was chosen for a number of reasons. First of all, a 'case' in the correctional system is a person-based measure that may include a wide array of sequential or simultaneous correctional activities that are subject to direct supervision within the correctional system. Each correctional involvement has a discrete beginning, characterized by the identifiable start of supervision by the provincial authority, and an end date, as represented by the termination of all supervision obligations. Furthermore, since jurisdictional automated case-management systems are organized in this manner, assembling these data into involvements is appropriate for ICSS microdata.

Text box 2: Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) processing

The ICSS survey collects detailed information about the case histories of persons under direct supervision of provincial and federal correctional authorities. Important demographic and correctional characteristics (e.g., age, sex, Aboriginal identity, criminogenic needs, etc.) are recorded together with key supervision information (e.g., sentence type, supervision start- and end-dates, facility information, aggregate time served, breaches of conditions, etc.). Individual experiences within their supervision histories are systematically tabulated into units of count that are based on aggregated uninterrupted statuses of the same type (e.g., aggregated sentenced custody, aggregated remand, aggregated probation, etc.). Note also that offenders may be serving more than one status at the same time. For example:

Assume that an individual is arrested and held in custodial remand. After 7 days of court appearances wherein the individual was returned daily to remand custody, the individual receives a 9-month jail term, to be followed by one year of probation. All of these are supervised and there are no breaks in supervision. Further, at a later date, the individual returns to court and receives an additional 9 months of sentenced custody, which commences 3 months after the first term has begun. At that time, the individual also receives another six months of probation, to run consecutively to the first term. The ICSS would count the following according to the year in which the aggregated status commenced:

- 1 involvement
- 1 remand, duration of 7 days;
- 1 provincial jail term of 12 months (9 months plus 9 months concurrent from second set of charges, which overlap by 6 months);
- 18 months of probation (12 months plus additional 6 months consecutive from second set of charges)

If the same individual completes all of these correctional supervision obligations and is 'released' from correctional supervision, but is subsequently returned after being sentenced due to new charges, a new *involvement* and associated records would be generated.

By extension, a correctional re-involvement is counted when an individual returns to correctional supervision after having fully completed a previous set of supervised obligations.⁵ Furthermore, there may be more than one re-involvement following the initial release. Since an important element of a follow-up period is its duration, the re-involvement rate and its inverse – the rate of not being re-involved are examined in the current study using two different methodologies, *survival analysis* and *fixed follow-up analysis*. Both of these methodologies take the time at risk into consideration. More information on both techniques is provided later in this Juristat. In this report, the first completed involvement from which persons are followed is referred to as the *index involvement*. The date when this involvement ended is referred to as the *index release*.

Involvement in correctional services provides an indication of the utilization of correctional service resources, such as bed spaces occupied in a correctional institution or the number of persons supervised by parole/probation officers. Re-involvement, while providing an indication of recidivism (see Text box 3), more accurately is a measure of correctional utilization among those who were previously under supervision in correctional services.

Statistical methods of examining re-involvement

Survival analysis

Survival analysis is an effective statistical technique to assess the amount of time until a specified event (e.g., re-involvement in any correctional program) occurs while controlling for differences in follow-up periods. Survival analysis was designed for use with longitudinal data regarding the occurrence of events, and determines both whether or not, and when an event has occurred (Allison, 1995). Survival analysis is most often applied to the study of deaths and was originally designed for that purpose, which explains its name (Allison, 1995). However, survival analysis is extremely useful for studying many different kinds of events in both the social and natural sciences. Survival analysis focuses on the time interval between two events or survival time (Wright, 2000).

Survival analysis, using the Kaplan-Meier procedure, is employed in this study. The Kaplan-Meier procedure is the most widely used method for estimating survivor functions⁶, when censoring is present (Allison, 1995). This technique can be thought of as an 'enhanced' frequency distribution table, where the distribution of survival times is divided into a certain number of time intervals. For each interval, the number and proportion of cases that entered the respective interval 'alive' (i.e., number not re-involved), the number and proportion of cases that failed in the respective interval (i.e., number re-

5. It should be noted that new offences committed and dealt within the court system while a person is already under the supervision of correctional services is not considered a correctional 're-involvement' in this study since the additional sentence would be incorporated within the existing sentence.
6. The cumulative proportion surviving is the cumulative proportion of cases surviving up to the respective interval. Since the probabilities of survival is assumed to be independent across the intervals, this probability is computed by multiplying out the probabilities of survival across all previous intervals. The resulting function is also called the survivorship or survival function (StatSoft Inc., accessed 2004).

Text box 3: Measuring recidivism

One of the most common and sought-after performance indicators in the criminal justice system is recidivism following release from correctional services. McWhinnie and Andrews (1997) note that "in the criminal justice system, recidivism means re-offending, that is, a return to (or "falling back" into) criminal behaviour, following previous contact with the criminal justice system" (p. 11). The measurement of recidivism typically takes the form of a proportion or percentage of arrests, convictions or incarcerations (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997).

Two types of designs have been employed in measuring recidivism: longitudinal and cross-sectional. Cross-sectional designs analyze offenders' criminal pasts as of a specific point in time, while a longitudinal design examines criminal futures, that is, individual behavioural outcomes. Furthermore, longitudinal studies may be retrospective or prospective. A retrospective longitudinal study identifies a cohort of offenders from a prior time period (for example, five years prior to the beginning of the follow-up period) and then follows them from the past to the present examining evidence of offending (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997). Conversely, a prospective longitudinal design identifies a cohort of offenders in the current year and then follows the cohort for one or more years. A retrospective longitudinal design is employed in this report.

While there are several methods for examining recidivism, one appropriate method is to examine the rate at which persons released from correctional involvement return to criminal behaviour regardless of whether crime is detected (e.g., police reports) or undetected (e.g., self-reported criminal behaviour). The ICSS is unable to detect offenders who commit crimes, are processed by police and the courts, but where the offence does not result in an admission to a correctional service such as probation, sentenced custody or conditional sentence. Re-involvement in correctional services, the outcome measure used

in this study, is notionally similar to recidivism but is not exclusively a measure of recidivism. This is due to several factors, such as:

- Date of offence is not available;⁷ a pure measure of recidivism requires that the date of offence be known in order to determine the chronological order of offences. That is, one could not know that a subsequent correctional admission was actually the result of a subsequent offence without the date of offence being known. For example, an offender may be under a variety of concurrent and consecutive dispositions that may or may not be related to each other and the offender may, at the same time, commit new offences or be charged with previously occurring offences.
- Offences occurring during an involvement cannot be identified due to the unavailability of date of offence as well as the aggregated nature of correctional data. For example, an offender may be sentenced to probation, reoffend while on probation and receive an additional period of probation but be counted under the same involvement. These separate occurrences will be aggregated into a single period of probation. This occurs because offenders' movement through the corrections system can be very complex involving numerous events that reflect the processes surrounding the case management of the offender in the correctional system and their ongoing interaction with those of the broader criminal justice system.
- Convictions and sentences which did not bring the offender into contact with the corrections system are not in scope for the ICSS. This can include absolute discharges, unsupervised probation, fines, unsupervised community service orders or restitution orders, as well as offences handled outside the courts through alternative measures or extrajudicial measures, etc.

Some of the limitations of the present study could be addressed in the future through links to police survey data (UCR2) and to court survey records.

involved)⁸, and the number of cases that were lost or censored in the respective interval are computed. Censored data refers to persons who have reached the end of the pre-determined follow-up period but have not failed (i.e., have not become re-involved). This may be because a person never experiences the event in his or her lifetime (e.g., because he or she never returns to provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan) or because the event had not occurred as of the end of the follow-up period (e.g., he or she does not return to provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan as of the end of the follow-up period). Persons who are censored are removed from the calculation estimating the proportion of subjects who failed by a certain time interval. The amount of censoring increases as the end point of the study approaches and therefore, estimates calculated on the basis of observations late in the study are less stable.⁹

Survival analysis provides a number of benefits. First, it makes it possible to include all cases without regard to length of time they can be followed-up. For the purposes of this study, the most recent data may be used since each year new cases are collected and can be analyzed. Second, it provides a visual examination of the data, showing the rate of failure (i.e., re-involvement) across time, so that groups that fail very quickly after release can be identified and compared to those that fail more slowly and over a longer period of time. Interpretation of survival analysis results generally includes statements regarding the shape of curves, how they compare among study groups, as well as how groups compare on rates of survival and failure at different specified time intervals, and median failure time.

Individuals involved in correctional services were followed from the date at which they were completely released until they were re-involved in any correctional service or until the end of the follow-up period if they were not re-involved, and the time to re-involvement in any correctional service was plotted on a survival curve. The slope of the curve demonstrates the rate of surviving without a re-involvement over time. Steep slopes indicate that many offenders are failing within a relatively short period of time while more gradual slopes demonstrate that re-involvement is more steady and gradual over time. For ease of interpretation of survival analysis results, failure rates (i.e., re-involvement rates) are examined, as opposed to survival rates (i.e., no re-involvement rates), which is the conventional method used in survival analysis. Survival analysis curves are therefore presented using a simple mathematical inverse transformation (i.e., $1 - \text{proportion surviving}$).

It is also possible to test the null hypothesis that the survivor functions are the same among sub-groups, such as Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal groups of persons (i.e., that the survivor functions were obtained from the same population). This type of analysis was used throughout this *Juristat*.

7. Date of offence is not available from most correctional services automated case management systems and is therefore not collected by the ICSS.
8. The proportion failing is computed as the ratio of the number of cases failing in the respective interval, divided by the number of cases at risk in the interval. The number of cases at risk is the number of cases that entered the respective interval alive. Conversely, the proportion surviving is computed as 1 minus the proportion failing.
9. Large numbers of censored values decrease the equivalent number of subjects exposed (at risk), making the life table estimates less reliable than they would be for the same number of subjects with less censoring (PROPHET StatGuide, accessed 2004).

Fixed follow-up

A second methodology to assess re-involvement in the correctional system is the fixed follow-up method which examines the presence or absence of an event (e.g., a re-involvement in correctional services) for a fixed period of time. That is, persons are followed forward from the date of release from correctional involvement until some fixed period of time after that release to determine whether or not they were re-involved in correctional services.

The advantage of the fixed follow-up method is that it is easily understood. However, to be included in the analysis, subjects must be able to be followed for the full duration stipulated as the follow-up period. In comparison, survival analysis allows subjects with variable follow-up periods to be included, and statistically adjusts accordingly. Survival analysis, though, is a more complex analysis, requiring more extensive explanation of results. In addition, although survival analysis statistically adjusts for time at risk, results later in the follow-up period are less reliable due to censoring (see footnote 9).

Text box 4: Key concepts: 'involvement' and 'legal hold status'

Involvement: A continuous period of involvement in a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. This continuous period may include cases where the legal hold statuses may change (i.e., remand followed by sentenced custody which is followed by probation), however, supervision is continuous. That is, there is no more than one day difference between the end of one status and the beginning of another. The individual must be under direct correctional supervision at any time between 1999/00 and 2003/04 to be included in the database, but the involvement may commence before April 1, 1999 or conclude after March 31, 2004.

Legal hold status: 'Legal hold status' addresses the reason for which a person is involved in correctional services, and includes custody (both sentenced and remand), conditional sentence, probation and other community services as well as various forms of conditional release (parole, statutory release) and fine option programs. Legal hold statuses are collapsed into broader categories for the purpose of this report, and are referred to under the generic categories listed above. For example, an admission to a provincial custody after being sentenced at court would be categorized as a 'sentenced custody' as would a re-admission to provincial custodial supervision due to breach of parole.

Adults involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan

Aboriginal involvement in Saskatchewan correctional services most pronounced for young Aboriginal adults

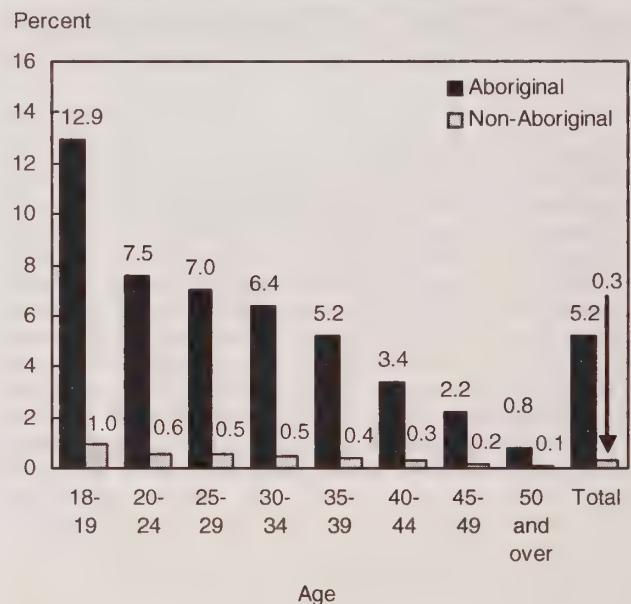
As noted in the introduction, Aboriginal people are over-represented in the criminal justice system in general, and the correctional system, in particular. Using the ICSS data for Saskatchewan, it was possible to determine the rate of involvement in correctional services in Saskatchewan for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults. For example, there were a total of 5,745 adults supervised in the Saskatchewan provincial correctional system on an average day in May 2001, of which 3,631 were Aboriginal, 1,823 were non-Aboriginal, and 291 were of unknown Aboriginal identity. Calculated as a proportion of the total adult population in Saskatchewan, 5.2% of Aboriginal adults were under correctional supervision (see

Figure 1). In comparison, less than 1% (0.3) of non-Aboriginal adults were involved in the Saskatchewan correctional system. Overall, the proportion of correctional involvement was more than 18 times greater for Aboriginal adults than for non-Aboriginal adults in Saskatchewan.

The proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in corrections in Saskatchewan across age categories is also displayed in Figure 1. As can be seen, the highest proportion was for Aboriginal adults aged 18 to 19 years (13%). This proportion was substantially higher than that observed for non-Aboriginal 18 to 19 year olds (1%). Notably, as age increases, the proportion of persons involved in correctional services decreases for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults. However, the proportionate involvement is consistently higher for Aboriginal adults than non-Aboriginal adults across all age groups.

Figure 1

Percentage of adult population in correctional services, on an average day in May 2001, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan



Sources: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Census of Population, Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal adults more likely to have more than one involvement in correctional services in Saskatchewan

In total, 28,021 adults were involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan during the years 1999/00 to 2003/04. Among them, 89% (25,112) completed their first involvement during this period.¹⁰ The 3,000 who had not completed their first involvement were excluded from all further analyses.

10. The remainder were active in their single involvement that was not yet completed as of March 31, 2004.

Among those with a completed involvement, 39% had more than one involvement in the Saskatchewan correctional system during this time frame. Analysis of ICSS data revealed that Aboriginal adults were more likely than non-Aboriginal adults to have more than one involvement in corrections.¹¹ Specifically, 50% of Aboriginal persons versus 25% of Non-Aboriginal persons had more than one involvement in correctional services during the five year time frame (see Figure 2). In particular, 26% of Aboriginal persons had two involvements, 12% had three involvements, 6% had four involvements and 5% had five or more involvements. In comparison, among non-Aboriginal persons, 17% had two involvements, 5% had three involvements, 2% had four involvements and 1% had five or more involvements.

Characteristics of persons supervised in correctional services in Saskatchewan

Among those who had completed at least one involvement, 57% (14,349) were Aboriginal¹² (see Text Table 1) compared to only 10% of adults in the total Saskatchewan population.

Within the Aboriginal population in correctional services, there were over 950 (7%) non-status Indians, about 2,500 (18%) Métis, and slightly more than 10,800 (76%) North American (status) Indians. Given the large number of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan corrections, their level of over-representation in Saskatchewan correctional services, and, as will be demonstrated in this report, the different profile of Aboriginal offenders, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups are presented and compared throughout this *Juristat*.

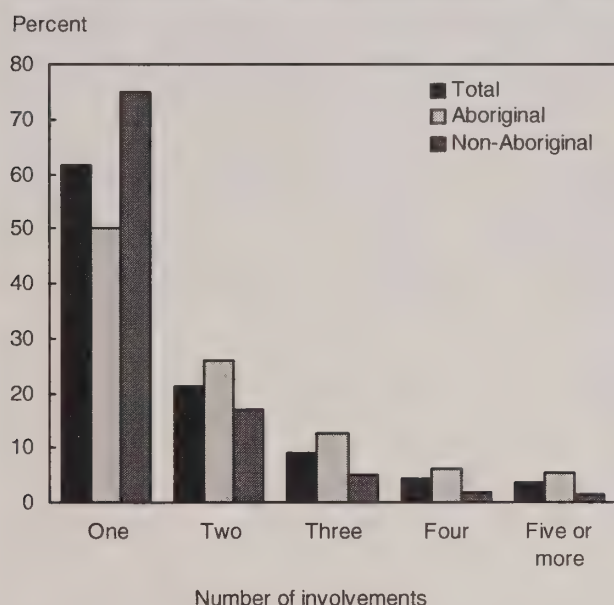
Most serious offence profiles differed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan

Table 1 presents a profile of the Saskatchewan adult correctional population who had completed their first involvement on a number of personal and case characteristics and compares Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons. Comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons according to their most serious offence (MSO) indicate that Aboriginal offenders are more than twice as likely to have a serious violent offence (homicide, attempted murder, major assault) in their first correctional involvement than non-Aboriginal persons (18% versus 8%). Furthermore, slightly more than half of Aboriginal persons had a violent offence (serious violent offence, sexual offence, robbery, common assault, other violent offence) as their most serious offence compared to 38% of non-Aboriginal persons. On the other hand, non-Aboriginal persons were more likely to have a criminal code traffic offence (14% versus 11%), fraud offence (7% versus 3%) or drug offence (8% versus 3%) as their most serious offence than Aboriginal persons.

11. Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal comparative analyses exclude cases where Aboriginal identity is unknown. Of the 25,112 persons who had completed their first involvement, Aboriginal identity was unknown for 1,892 persons.
12. When excluding persons of unknown Aboriginal identity, 62% of persons with at least one completed involvement were Aboriginal and 38% were non-Aboriginal.

Figure 2

Distribution of the number of involvements in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal identity¹, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04



1. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 1

Aboriginal identity of all persons involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04

	N	%	% of known
Total	25,112	100.0	
Aboriginal	14,349	57.1	61.8
Non-Status Indian	953	3.8	4.1
North American (Status) Indian	10,842	43.2	46.7
Métis	2,554	10.2	11.0
Non-Aboriginal	8,871	35.3	38.2
Unknown	1,892	7.5	

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal adults in corrections in Saskatchewan are younger and are more often women than non-Aboriginal adults

As indicated in Table 1, Aboriginal people in the Saskatchewan correctional system were an average of three years younger than non-Aboriginal persons, 29.7 years of age versus 33.1 years of age. This is reflective of a young Aboriginal adult population in Saskatchewan where almost half (49%) of Aboriginal adults compared to 27% of non-Aboriginal adults were between 18 and 34 years of age (2001 Census). Almost three-quarters (71%) of Aboriginal persons in the adult Saskatchewan correctional system were less than 35 years of age compared to 58% of Non-Aboriginal persons.

Over 2,700 Aboriginal females and about 900 non-Aboriginal females were involved in Saskatchewan correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004. This was almost double the representation of females in the Aboriginal population involved in corrections compared to the non-Aboriginal corrections population (19% versus 10%).

Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan corrections also differed from non-Aboriginal persons on their most recent marital status. While approximately half of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were single, almost twice the proportion of Aboriginal persons were in a common-law relationship (31% versus 17%) and, almost half the proportion were separated or divorced (9% versus 17%). Only slightly fewer Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons were married (10% versus 14%).

One in five Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan corrections only have primary school education

Compared to the general population, the corrections population has a relatively low level of education. For example, among all 25 to 54 year olds in Saskatchewan population, about one-third (34%) had completed a post-secondary degree¹³ compared to only 3% of this age group among the correctional population (Table 1). Low education attainment was much more common among Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Non-Aboriginal persons involved in corrections were three times as likely as Aboriginal persons to have completed some or all of a post-secondary education (12% versus 4%). More than double the proportion of Aboriginal persons compared to non-Aboriginal persons had only completed some or all of their primary school education (20% versus 8%). This compared to 4% of the total Saskatchewan population of 25 to 54 year olds who had between 0 and 8 years of education.

More than four-in-ten (42%) Aboriginal adults involved in corrections were unemployed prior to their most recent admission to correctional services, compared to just under a quarter (23%) of non-Aboriginal adults (Table 1). An additional 6% of Aboriginal persons were students versus 2% of non-Aboriginal persons. This finding may be related to the comparatively younger average age of Aboriginal persons involved in correctional services. It should be noted that the employment status of persons admitted to correctional services may be affected by their contact with the criminal justice system and resulting admission to correctional supervision. Therefore, the employment status at admission of persons involved in

correctional services cannot be directly compared to the employment status of the general adult population in Saskatchewan.

Text box 5: Offender risk/need assessment in Saskatchewan

The utility of offender risk assessment tools in predicting offender outcomes such as behaviour during and following correctional involvement has repeatedly been demonstrated (Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Actuarial risk prediction instruments are more effective than clinical judgment alone.¹⁴ According to Andrews and Bonta (1998), the assessment of offenders should be based upon four principles: risk, need, responsivity and professional discretion.¹⁵ The risk principle is based upon two assertions: (1) criminal behaviour can and should be predicted; and (2) the intervention employed should match the risk level of the offender. Furthermore, the need principle is based upon the concept that offenders often have more than one need or problem, and that certain needs are more directly related to offending than others (i.e., criminogenic needs). Case workers should target those criminogenic needs for intervention. Some examples of criminogenic needs include antisocial attitudes, antisocial peers, family or marital problems, and substance abuse.

The Saskatchewan Department of Corrections and Public Safety has instituted use of primary and secondary risk assessment in their system of case management. Corrections staff use the Offender Risk Assessment Management System (ORAMS) to derive primary risk assessments and, when appropriate, secondary risk assessments. Primary risk assessments are completed on all offenders sentenced to probation, conditional sentence or prison and for those for whom a court report has been ordered.¹⁶ These assessments help predict an offender's likelihood of committing any new offence (general recidivism). These assessments also identify problem areas that contribute to offending behaviour (criminogenic needs), help match the degree and type of supervision and/or interventions to the offender's risk, assist in determining the offender's appropriateness for community work placements, temporary releases or early release from a correctional institution, and determine which offenders pose the highest risk to the community. Corrections staff review factors on the primary risk assessment concerning drug or alcohol abuse, attitude, family/marital relationships, financial situation, emotional stability, mental ability and employment. The primary risk assessment tool has been found to predict failure on community supervision (e.g., probation, temporary absences), conviction for a new offence, and re-incarceration.

Secondary risk assessments are completed as required by the offender's needs and offence history. These more specific assessments focus on the offender's risk to reoffend in areas such as a general assault, partner abuse, or sexual offending. The Static-99¹⁷ is the risk assessment tool used to assess the probability of sexual and violent reoffending among adult males who have already been convicted of at least one sexual offence. Completing both primary and secondary risk assessments gives a more complete picture of the offender's overall risk to re-offend as well as pinpoints what correctional services an offender requires. For example, an offender could be considered at low risk to reoffend with any offence but high risk to offend with a sexual offence, assault offence, or spousal assault offence. In this case, the focus should be on factors related to the specific types of reoffending that is likely to occur rather than the factors related to the offender's risk of general recidivism.

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety website, www.cps.gov.sk.ca

13. Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, 2003.

14. Grove, W. M., & Meehl, P. E., 1996. Comparative efficiency of informal (subjective, impressionistic) and formal (mechanical, algorithmic) prediction procedures: The clinical-statistical controversy. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 2, 293-323.

15. The responsivity principle refers to delivering treatment programs in a style and mode that is consistent with the ability and learning style of the offender. Professional discretion is used to override the principles of assessment (risk, need, responsivity) in unique cases that do not fit the risk, need, responsivity formula.

16. Corrections and Public Safety, Community Operations, 2002. *Probation Officer General Orientation and Training Guide*. Saskatchewan, Corrections and Public Safety.

17. Hanson, R.K. & D. Thornton, 1999. *Static-99: Improving Actuarial Risk Assessment for Sex Offenders*. (User Report No. 1999-02). Ottawa: Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

Substance abuse, social interaction and employment needs more common among Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons

Needs data were available for assessed offenders on six needs:¹⁸ attitude, criminal peers and companions (social interaction), drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships (marital/family) and emotional stability of the offender (personal/emotional). Descriptions of the need domains are provided below:

- Attitude: degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change
- Peers/companions (social interaction): level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers
- Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse): degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems
- Employment: employment status (employed versus unemployed) and employment history
- Family/marital relationships (marital/family): presence or absence of serious problems in relationships
- Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional): whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this related to serious problems

Persons involved in correctional services were rated as medium or high in three need areas, on average. However, on average, Aboriginal persons had four out of six possible needs indicated as medium or high, compared to three for non-Aboriginal persons (Table 1). Aboriginal adults were more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal adults to have five or six needs identified, while approximately three times as many non-Aboriginal adults, compared to Aboriginal adults, had one or no need indicated as medium or high.

Employment (49%), family/marital (52%), attitude (63%), social interaction (65%) and substance abuse (82%) needs were indicated as medium or high level needs for a large proportion of the assessed adults in Saskatchewan correctional services. For all types of criminogenic needs, a larger percentage of Aboriginal persons compared to non-Aboriginal persons were assessed as medium or high, with the exception of personal/emotional (17% and 19%, respectively). The largest discrepancy between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were for employment (60% versus 33%),¹⁹ social interaction (74% versus 49%) and substance abuse (90% versus 67%) needs.

Profile of first involvement

The following section examines the characteristics of the first completed involvement of persons in correctional services in Saskatchewan over the fiscal years 1999/00 to 2003/04.²⁰ In order to relate the characteristics of involvements to the characteristics of people who have more than one involvement, the first involvement was chosen.

In most instances, a person's involvement is comprised of a single legal status

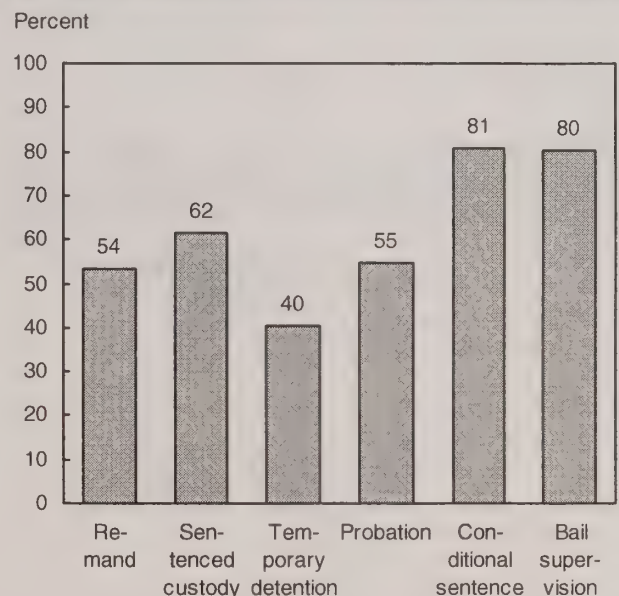
A majority (58%) of all adults in their first involvement in the Saskatchewan provincial correctional system were supervised under only one legal status:²¹ remand, sentenced custody, temporary detention, probation, conditional sentence or bail

supervision. About one-quarter (26%) had two types of correctional services, 9% had three, and 6% had four or more. Aboriginal persons were more likely than non-Aboriginal persons to have more than one legal status during an involvement (45% versus 38%).

Of all completed first involvements, only 40% of persons held on temporary detention and 54% of persons held in remand had more than one legal status in their first involvement (see Figure 3). Note that persons in remand or other temporary detention who receive only unsupervised sanctions (fine, restitution, etc.) or who are ordered 'time served' are deemed to have been released at court. In these situations, it is common for an involvement to end at remand or temporary detention. Most temporary detention (60%) and 46% of remand involvements had no other legal statuses. Just over half of persons serving a probation term (54%) had another type of correctional service in their first involvement.

Figure 3

Percent of adults whose legal status type was accompanied by at least one other legal status type, first involvement, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04



Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

18. Although needs information is collected several times during a person's involvement in correctional services, the data used in this study were for the most recent involvement. That is, the needs data may not reflect the assessment result at the time of release from the index involvement, but is likely a good proxy for the results of the assessment at that time. Please see Text box 5 for more information on risk/need assessment in Saskatchewan.

19. This is consistent with the lower level of employment at admission.

20. Please note that first involvements may not be true first involvements given that activity occurring fully prior to the survey reference period, prior or current federal supervisions, or correctional supervision in other provincial jurisdictions are excluded.

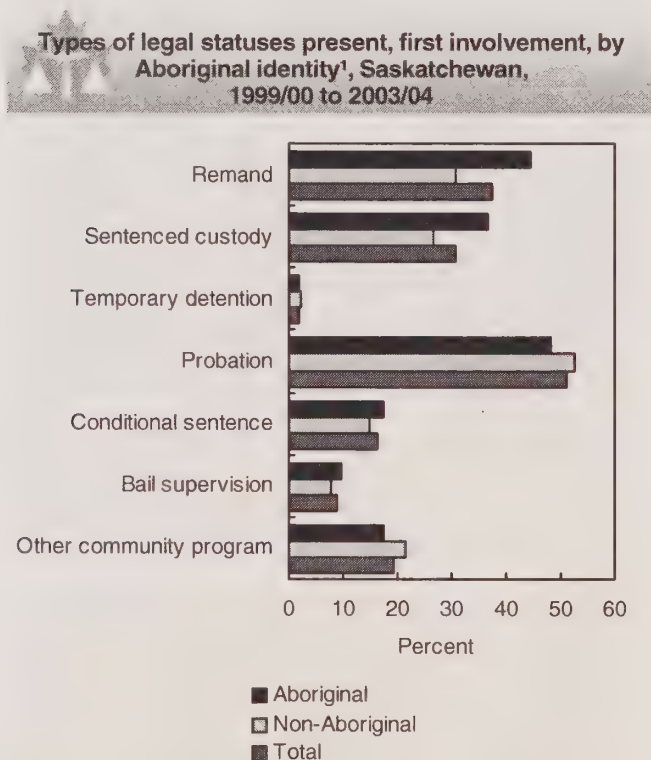
21. In some instances, the involvement may be comprised of more than one occurrence of the same legal status such as consecutive terms of probation that are aggregated into one recorded legal status of probation.

Probation is the most common correctional service

Since 42% of persons had more than one type of correctional service in their first involvement, frequency counts of legal status types are not mutually exclusive. The most common type of correctional service was probation, where half (51%, 12,856) of all adults had a probation term (Figure 4). This differed slightly between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons, with 48% versus 53% respectively, serving a probation term. The second most common legal status following probation was remand, with 37% (9,383) held in remand at some point during their involvement. It was more common for Aboriginal persons to be held in remand during their first involvement than non-Aboriginal persons (44% versus 31%).

Approximately 31% (7,585) of persons had served a period of sentenced custody during their first involvement in the Saskatchewan correctional system. However, this differed on the basis of Aboriginal identity, where 36% of Aboriginal persons versus 27% of non-Aboriginal persons had a period of sentenced custody. Other common correctional programs were conditional sentences (16%, 4,078) and other community programs (19%, 4,843). A slightly larger percentage of Aboriginal persons were serving a conditional sentence than non-Aboriginal persons (17% versus 15%), while slightly fewer were serving an other community program (17% versus 21%).

Figure 4



Note: Types of legal statuses are not mutually exclusive.

1. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the approximately 25,000 persons whose first involvement had ended during the study period, the average amount of time spent involved in correctional services was 297 days. This figure is largely influenced by the large number of offenders with probation, where the length can be up to three years. However, the overall median was slightly less, at 217 days or approximately 7 months, while the modal (i.e. most frequent value) number of days involved was only two. This low value is due to the large number of remand only involvements that were two days in duration (1,402). Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons had spent on average a similar amount of time (300 days versus 294 days) involved in correctional services. There was also little difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in median number of days involved in the first involvement with a median of 222 days for Aboriginal persons versus 230 days for non-Aboriginal persons.

Re-involvement profiles

As described earlier, re-involvement is defined as a return to correctional services following complete release from involvement in correctional services. As previously noted, this excludes federal correctional supervision, correctional supervision in other provincial jurisdictions and correctional activity occurring prior to or after the survey reference period. Re-involvement, and the lack of re-involvement, can be examined in terms of rates, the elapsed time until a re-involvement, and patterns of re-involvement over time. Furthermore, these indices may be compared across various factors such as sex, age, Aboriginal identity and type of correctional service. When examining survival analysis results, rates of re-involvement indicate the rate at which offenders were returned to correctional services by a certain point in time, while statistically accounting for time at risk to return.

For all follow-up analyses, persons were excluded whose involvement included only remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses during the release cohort year. These exclusion criteria were used in order to acknowledge the possibility of persons being released and subsequently returning to correctional supervision on the same matter. For example, if a person is arrested and immediately held in remand following arrest, he/she may be released from remand pending a court date. Once at court, the individual may be sentenced to custody on these matters. However, persons were included if their involvement included remand and one or more other types of correctional service (sentenced custody, conditional sentence, probation, other community program).

Five-year re-involvement profile of 1999/00 release cohort

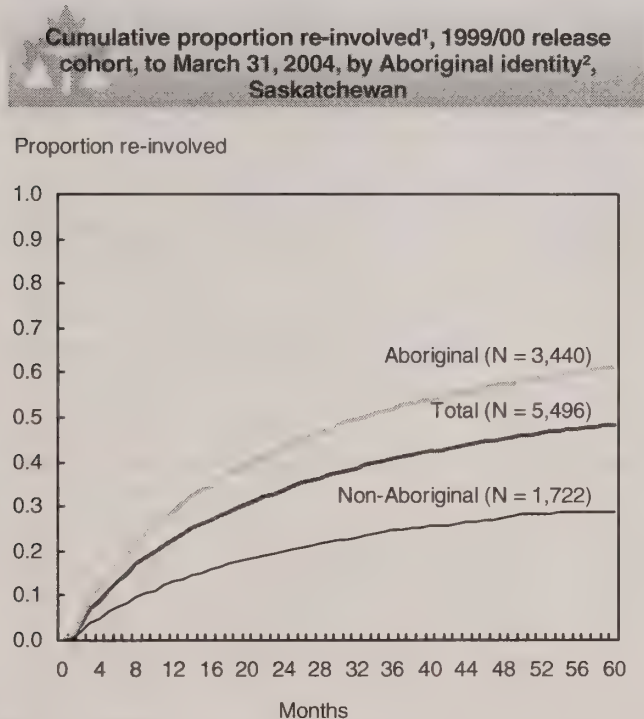
Looking at the first year of the study period a total of 5,496 people were released from all involvement in provincial correctional services in Saskatchewan between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000. Among those released, 47% were re-involved in correctional services by March 31, 2004. The pattern in the cumulative proportion of persons re-involved is presented in Figure 5. In general, there was rapid increase in re-involvement within the first 12 months, with approximately 22% of persons returning to correctional services within the first year following release. Respectively, 34%, 41% and 45%

had been re-involved in correctional services after two, three and four years. Because of the relatively low number of persons returning, and the high amount of censoring in the fifth year, results at the fifth year were not reported.

Aboriginal persons more likely to return to correctional services

Large differences in the survival analysis profiles of Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal persons can be observed in Figure 5 (see Table 2 for more statistical information). At the end of the fourth year (48 months), more than one-half (57%) of Aboriginal persons compared to slightly more than one-quarter of non-Aboriginal persons (28%) had returned to correctional services following release. Furthermore, rates of re-involvement increase more rapidly for Aboriginal persons during the first 12 months than non-Aboriginal persons, with 29% versus 13% returning, respectively.

Figure 5



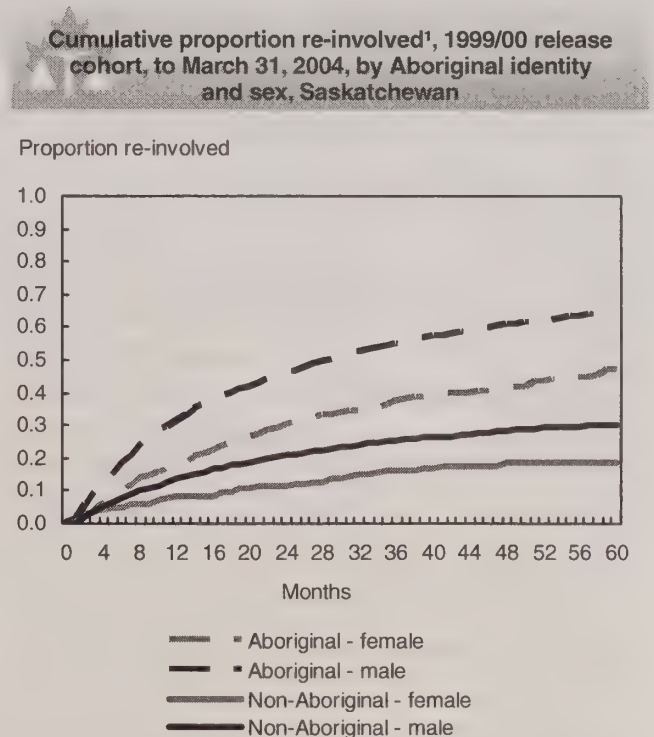
1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 2. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
- Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

These results indicate that Aboriginal persons have much different re-involvement profiles than non-Aboriginal persons in correctional services in Saskatchewan. Furthermore, as discussed earlier, comparative analyses indicate that Aboriginal persons in this population have a number of characteristics that make them more 'at risk' to become re-involved such as younger age and more diverse and higher need profiles than non-Aboriginal persons (see Table 1). Therefore, all further

analyses of re-involvement in this *Juristat* are conducted while controlling for Aboriginal identity.

One key demographic risk factor for involvement in the criminal justice system is sex, with males being much more likely to be involved in criminal activity than females. Figure 6 displays the survival profile of males and females released from correctional services during the fiscal year 1999/00 by Aboriginal identity. For both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, females are slower to become re-involved in correctional services and have lower re-involvement rates than males (see Table 3 for more statistical information). However, Aboriginal females have higher re-involvement rates than both non-Aboriginal females and males. Four years after release from correctional services approximately 61% of Aboriginal males, 41% of Aboriginal females, 29% of non-Aboriginal males and 19% of non-Aboriginal females had returned to correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Figure 6



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
- Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

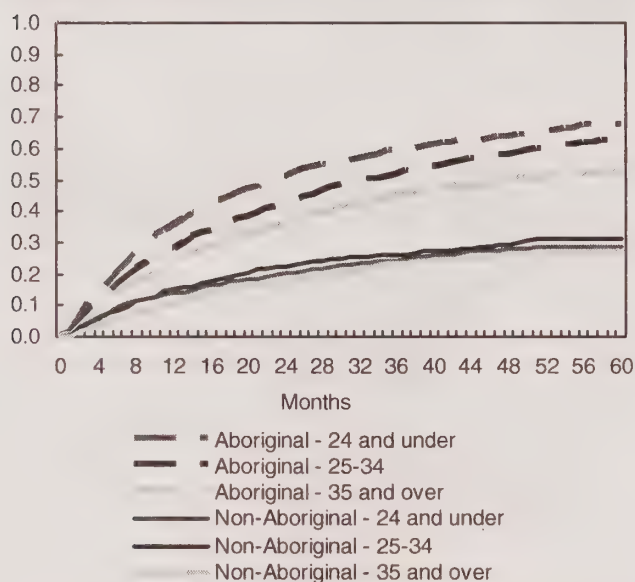
Another major demographic risk factor cited in the literature is age, with younger persons having higher rates of offending than older persons. As noted previously, the Aboriginal population under provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan is younger than the non-Aboriginal population, which would influence their likelihood of re-involvement. Figure 7 examines re-involvement while controlling for age. As can be seen, re-involvement rates are still higher for Aboriginal adults

than for non-Aboriginal adults even when age is taken into account. Furthermore, age appears to play more of a role in outcome following release from correctional services for Aboriginal adults than for non-Aboriginal adults (see Table 3 for more statistical information). Among the Aboriginal group, the youngest age group (24 and under)²² had the highest rate of re-involvement with approximately 64% re-involved in correctional services within 4 years, compared to 58% of those 25 to 34 years of age and 50% of those 35 years of age and over. This effect was not observed in the non-Aboriginal group where the re-involvement rates ranged very little across age groups. While the oldest age group among non-Aboriginals had the lowest re-involvement rate four years after release of 26%, this did not differ greatly from that observed for the 24 and under age group (28%) or the 25 to 34 year old age group (29%).

Figure 7

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and age, Saskatchewan

Proportion re-involved



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Adults with community only involvements least likely to return to correctional services

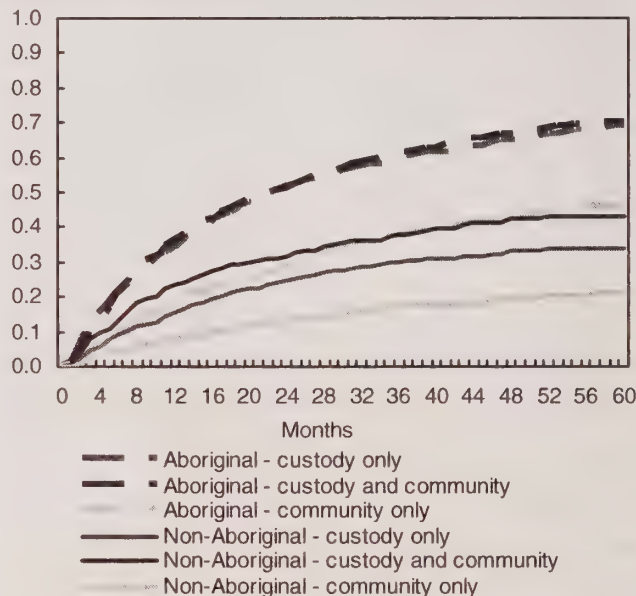
In general, custodial sentences are given to offenders who commit more serious offences and/or have more extensive criminal histories than those who are sentenced to community correctional sentences such as probation and conditional sentences. Therefore, since criminal history is a major risk factor for return to criminal justice involvement, those with custodial sentences would be expected to be at greater risk for re-involvement in correctional services. As displayed in

Figure 8, this appears to be the case. For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, persons with only community involvement have lower rates of re-involvement than those whose involvement included a period of sentenced custody, regardless of whether the custodial sentence was alone or combined with a community sentence (see Table 3 for more statistical information). For non-Aboriginal persons, 20% of those released from community only involvement returned to correctional services within four years after release compared to 33% of non-Aboriginal persons with custody only, and 42% of those with both custodial and community sentences. For Aboriginal persons, 43% of those released from community only involvement returned to correctional services four years after release compared to 65% of persons with custody, and 67% with custody and community sentences.

Figure 8

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and involvement type, Saskatchewan

Proportion re-involved



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

However, it is important to note that among those with custody and community involvement, fewer of those released from a community program were returned to correctional services than those released from custody, and this finding held true for Aboriginal (65% versus 76% returned within 4 years) and non-Aboriginal (40% versus 64% returned within 4 years) persons.

22. Generally, persons admitted to the adult correctional system are 18 years of age or older. Less than 1% (0.2%, 41) were under 18 years of age at admission into correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Those with custody and community involvements who were released from custody include offenders who may have already breached conditions of a community sentence and/or had additional offences dealt with during their community supervision that resulted in a period of custody. It is possible that community supervision contributes to more successful treatment and thus reintegration, and that those offenders released following a period of community supervision are less likely to become re-involved in the system. Further study is needed to better assess this hypothesis.

As number of identified needs rises, re-involvement becomes more likely

Actuarial risk assessment tools such as those employed in Saskatchewan often determine an overall risk/need score per offender. However, this value was not available in the data and therefore a 'proxy' measure was derived by calculating the number of needs endorsed as 'medium' or 'high' need level, for the six need areas for which data were available. Accordingly, offenders with a fewer number of needs indicated would be expected to have lower rates of re-involvement than those with a higher number of needs. As number of needs rose rates of re-involvement also increased, for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups (Figure 9). For non-Aboriginal persons, approximately 15% with zero to one need returned to corrections within 4 years of release compared to 30% of those with two to three needs, 46% of those with four needs, and 50% of those with five or six needs identified. In a similar pattern, 39% of Aboriginal persons with zero to one need returned to correctional supervision within four years compared to 51% with two to three needs, 66% with four needs and 75% with five to six needs.

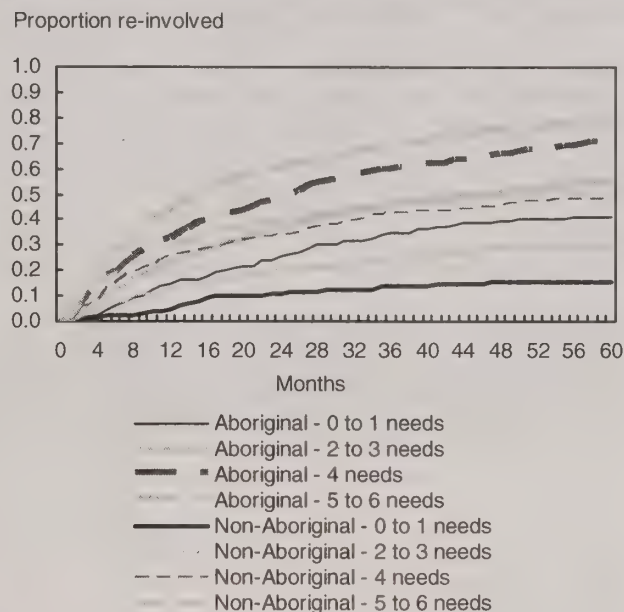
Selected characteristics and outcome

Survival analysis is not appropriate to use when cell counts are small. As a result, for analysis of key sub-groups, a four year fixed follow-up analysis was performed. Text table 2 presents re-involvement status by selected characteristics using the fixed follow-up approach. The index releasing legal status type refers to the last type of correctional service a person was involved in prior to complete release from correctional service involvement in 1999/00.²³ As indicated in Figure 8, persons released from community supervision had lower re-involvement rates than those released from custody. However, there were no differences in outcome based upon the type of community correctional service offenders were released from. Notably, offenders who concluded a conditional sentence without breaching and being incarcerated had a similar outcome profile (39% re-involved) as probationers who concluded without breaching their probation order and being incarcerated (38% re-involved) or those in another type of community program (39% re-involved).

Among those released from custody, approximately 57% of persons released from sentenced custody were re-involved following release, while 76% released from temporary detention were re-involved.²⁴ Two or more re-involvements within four years following release was most frequent for those released from other temporary detention (58%) and sentenced custody (36%).

Figure 9

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and number of needs, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Robbery offenders most likely to have one or more re-involvement

Certain offences are often cited as being linked to the likelihood of recidivism. For example, Spicer and Glicksman (2004) found that two-year reconviction rates differed among persons with differing principal offences, with those originally convicted for a sexual offence having the lowest reconviction rate of 17%, while those convicted for theft had the highest rate of 73%.²⁵ Analysis of the most serious offence in the index involvement by re-involvement status in Saskatchewan indicates that offenders with a robbery offence had the highest rate of re-involvement, with two-thirds returning to correctional services within 4 years of release. Furthermore, more than half of the offenders who had a break and enter (55%), serious violent offence (55%), theft and possession of stolen property (52%) and offence against the administration of justice (50%) returned to correctional supervision in Saskatchewan. Those least likely to be re-involved were offenders who had a fraud (31%), drug

23. Index releasing legal status types were rank ordered as per Text table 2. Types of correctional services are mutually exclusive.

24. Please note that persons whose involvement included only remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses were excluded.

25. Two-year reconviction rates for other types of principal offences were 42.5% for violence against the person, 69.5% for burglary (equivalent to break and enter in Canada), 48.2% for robbery, 36.9% for fraud and forgery, 55.7% for criminal damage (equivalent to mischief in Canada), 45.9% for drug offences, 42.9% for motoring offences, and 48.8% for all other offences (Spicer and Glicksman, 2004).

offence (32%), other property offence (35%), *Criminal Code* traffic offence (36%) or a sexual offence (40%) as their most serious offence. Those most likely to have a re-involvement were also most likely to have two or more re-involvements, such as offenders with a robbery (48%), theft/possession of stolen property (35%), serious violent offence (34%), break and enter (33%) or an offence against the administration of justice (31%) as their most serious offence.

Offenders with employment and social interaction needs had highest re-involvement rates

Criminogenic needs indicated as medium or high were also examined in relation to outcome using the fixed follow-up approach (see Text box 5 for more information on risk/need assessment). While overall 46% of adults returned to correctional services, between 52% and 63% persons identified

as having medium or high needs in specific need areas were re-involved in correctional services. Those with employment indicated as a need area were most likely to return to correctional services (63%), followed by persons with a social interaction need (59%). These persons were also most likely to have two or more re-involvements, with 41% of those with an employment need and 37% of those with a social interaction need being returned to correctional services two or more times following complete release.

Characteristics of re-involvements

As noted earlier, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons differed in their rate of re-involvement following release. They also differed in the number of re-involvements, with Aboriginal persons being three times more likely to have three re-involvements (9% versus 3%) and five times more likely to

Text Table 2

Fixed four year re-involvement status of 1999/00 release cohort, by selected characteristics, Saskatchewan

	Total ¹	No re-involvement		One re-involvement		Two or more re-involvements	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	5,496	2,993	54.5	1,071	19.5	1,432	26.1
Index releasing legal status type^{1,2}							
Sentenced custody	1,809	775	42.8	376	20.8	658	36.4
Temporary detention	79	19	24.1	14	17.7	46	58.2
Conditional sentence	491	302	61.5	96	19.6	93	18.9
Probation	2,775	1,690	60.9	524	18.9	561	20.2
Other community program	342	207	60.5	61	17.8	74	21.6
Most serious offence, index involvement²							
Serious violent offences ³	710	321	45.2	150	21.1	239	33.7
Sexual offences ⁴	176	105	59.7	40	22.7	31	17.6
Robbery	124	41	33.1	24	19.4	59	47.6
Common assault	1,096	620	56.6	211	19.3	265	24.2
Other violent offences ⁵	293	154	52.6	55	18.8	84	28.7
Break and enter	418	189	45.2	90	21.5	139	33.3
Theft and possession of stolen property	467	222	47.5	82	17.6	163	34.9
Fraud	217	149	68.7	39	18.0	29	13.4
Other property offences	122	79	64.8	20	16.4	23	18.9
Offences against the administration of justice	324	163	50.3	62	19.1	99	30.6
Other <i>Criminal code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	202	117	57.9	35	17.3	50	24.8
<i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences	794	509	64.1	168	21.2	117	14.7
Drug offences	208	141	67.8	31	14.9	36	17.3
Other federal statutes ⁶	175	80	45.7	30	17.1	65	37.1
Provincial/territorial/municipal offences and bylaw infractions	94	64	68.1	16	17.0	14	14.9
Need indicated⁷							
Substance abuse	3,840	1,695	44.1	850	22.1	1,295	33.7
Attitude	2,960	1,280	43.2	631	21.3	1,049	35.4
Family/marital	2,440	1,058	43.4	534	21.9	848	34.8
Personal/emotional	812	391	48.2	182	22.4	239	29.4
Social interaction	3,061	1,254	41.0	688	22.5	1,119	36.6
Employment	2,375	885	37.3	518	21.8	972	40.9

1. Includes rank-ordered most serious legal status type, and therefore, types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive. Involvements consisting of remand, bail supervisions and/or certain temporary detention statuses only during the release cohort year were excluded.

2. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.

3. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major (non-sexual) assault.

4. Includes sexual assault (all levels) and other sexual offences.

5. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

6. Includes other federal statute offences, such as *Income Tax Act* and *Firearms Act*.

7. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high. Needs indicated are not mutually exclusive, persons may have more than one need indicated. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

be re-involved four or more times (11% versus 2%) (see Text table 3).

Characteristics of re-involvements for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons are presented in Table 4. In general, the overall length of the first re-involvement, taking into account all supervision, was relatively short with more than half of persons becoming re-involved for a period of six months or less. Aboriginal persons were slightly more likely than non-Aboriginal persons to have shorter re-involvements of 1 to 90 days (43% versus 37%) and 3 to 6 months (15% versus 12%). One reason for this may be that a larger proportion of Aboriginal people were readmitted to custody, particularly to remand, which tends to be for a shorter period of time than community dispositions such as probation.

Looking at released offenders' first readmission to correctional services, more than 6 in 10 were returned to custody, mostly to remand. Aboriginal persons were more likely to be returned on remand (45%) than non-Aboriginal persons (38%). Approximately 13% of re-involved persons had a conditional sentence as their most serious re-admitting legal status and another 19% had probation. Non-Aboriginal persons were more likely to have a probation re-admission (26%) than Aboriginal persons (17%).

Considering all re-involvements over the four year period, almost two-thirds (65%) of re-involved persons had a term of sentenced custody as their most serious legal status type, with Aboriginal persons being more likely to have sentenced custody (68%) than non-Aboriginal persons (56%). Conditional sentences were the most serious legal status over all re-involvements for 7% of those re-involved, while probation accounted for another 11%. Aboriginal persons were less likely to have probation as their most serious legal status type than non-Aboriginal persons (9% versus 17%).

Three-year re-involvement profile and correctional history analysis of 2001/02 release cohort

Up to this point, the analysis has followed persons from their first involvement recorded in the data forward. In order to explore the relationship between past correctional history and re-involvement, a release cohort in the middle of the data series, 2001/02, was selected. Through this analysis, the relationship between characteristics of prior correctional involvement and future re-involvement could be assessed.

Text Table 3

Number of re-involvements of 1999/00 release cohort within four years of release, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan

	Total		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of re-involvements						
None	2,993	54.5	1,455	42.3	1,242	72.1
One	1,071	19.5	756	22.0	283	16.4
Two	655	11.9	544	15.8	106	6.2
Three	375	6.8	322	9.4	53	3.1
Four or more	402	7.3	363	10.6	38	2.2

Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

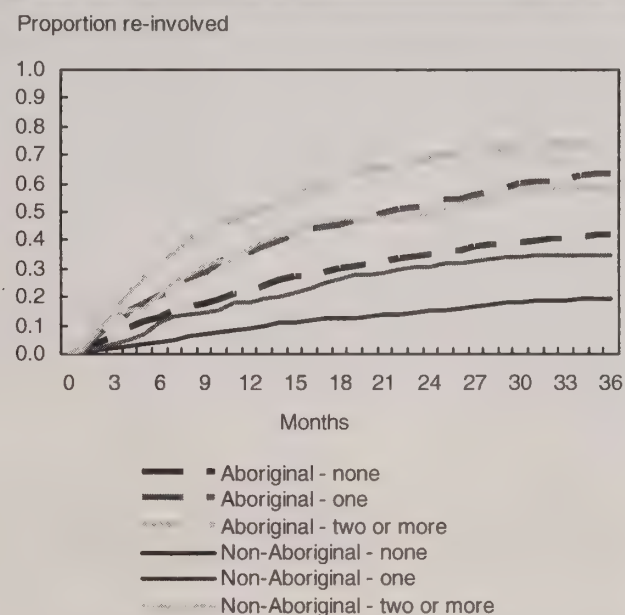
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Persons with more previous correctional service involvements were more likely to return to correctional services

Clear differences existed between persons with none, one, or two or more previous involvements for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups (Figure 10). For example, two years following release, 15% of non-Aboriginal persons without any prior involvement had been returned to correctional services, compared to 31% with one previous involvement and 49% with two or more previous involvements. Similarly, among Aboriginal persons, the rate of re-involvement two years following release was 35% for persons with no prior involvement, 52% for those with one prior involvement and 69% for persons with two or more prior involvements.

Figure 10

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 2001/02 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and number of previous involvements, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

As the number of previous involvements increase, not only does the likelihood of re-involvement increase, but also the number of re-involvements (see Text table 4). For example, among those with no previous involvements, 74% had no re-involvement, 16% had one re-involvement, and 10% had two or more re-involvements. In contrast, among persons with three or more previous involvements, 28% were not re-involved, 27% were re-involved once, and 46% were re-involved two or more times.

Text table 5 illustrates sentence characteristics of those previous involvements in relation to the outcome within two years following release among those with one or more previous involvement. The results are similar to those examining the relationship between type of current involvement and outcome

following release of the 1999/00 release cohort. Those with custody in previous involvements, in combination with community correctional statuses or alone, were more likely to return to correctional services than those with community only involvements. Compared to those with community only (40%) and custody only (53%) prior involvements, those who had both custody and community prior involvements were the most likely to return to correctional services (61%).

Among those with previous involvements, rates of re-involvement were lowest among persons whose prior most serious legal status was probation or a conditional sentence. Persons with sentenced custody in prior involvements were most likely to have two or more re-involvements (34%), followed by those with remand or temporary detention (20%).

Text Table 4

Re-involvement status of 2001/02 release cohort within two years of release, by number of previous involvements, Saskatchewan						
	No re-involvement		One re-involvement		Two or more re-involvements	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Number of previous involvements						
None	2,480	73.8	554	16.5	328	9.8
One	617	51.7	330	27.6	247	20.7
Two	130	36.3	112	31.3	116	32.4
Three or more	45	27.8	43	26.5	74	45.7

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 5

Re-involvement status of 2001/02 release cohort within two years of release, by selected correctional history characteristics, Saskatchewan						
	No re-involvement		One re-involvement		Two or more re-involvements	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Type of Involvement, all previous involvements¹						
Custody only	375	47.3	215	27.1	203	25.6
Custody and community	244	38.7	188	29.8	199	31.5
Community only	173	59.7	82	28.3	35	12.1
Most Serious legal status type, all previous involvements^{1,2}						
Sentenced Custody	320	37.2	250	29.0	291	33.8
Remand/Temp. Detention	299	53.1	153	27.2	111	19.7
Conditional Sentence	30	57.7	14	26.9	8	15.4
Probation	136	61.5	61	27.6	24	10.9
Bail Supervision	7	...	7	...	3	...

... not applicable

1. Includes only those who had one or more previous involvement.

2. Most serious legal status types are rank-ordered, and therefore, types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive. Other community programs were excluded from this table because there were no observations.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 6: Developing outcome indicators

One of the purposes of this report is to develop standard outcome indicators derived from the ICSS. As mentioned earlier in this report, a common outcome indicator is the level of recidivism, however, since recidivism could not be directly measured through use of the ICSS alone, the rate of re-involvement is examined. This section compares two methods of examining re-involvement: survival analysis and fixed follow-up analysis.

Fixed follow-up re-involvement rates per fiscal year of release are presented in Text table 6. These rates refer to the rate at which persons released from correctional supervision are returned to correctional supervision within one year of their release. All persons have a fixed period of one year available to return or not return to correctional supervision. Survival analysis results for the 1999/00 release cohort are presented in Figure 11. Twelve month estimated re-involvement rates for five fiscal year release cohorts are presented in Text table 6. The survival analysis results relate to persons who are released and readmitted to correctional services within the same fiscal year.

As previously indicated, the benefit of using survival analysis as opposed to the fixed follow-up method is that the most recent data can be used. That is, persons who are followed can be released within the most recent fiscal year and followed up during the same fiscal year, since survival analysis statistically accounts for time at risk to return to correctional services. In contrast, the fixed follow-up method requires that only those released in the previous fiscal year, and have a full year available to return to correctional services, are followed. Furthermore, survival analysis provides the benefit of allowing for the examination of patterns in survival rates and failure (re-involvement) over time.

Re-involvement rates within a fixed follow-up time frame of one year for each fiscal year release cohort are presented in Text table 6. The overall rate of re-involvement in correctional services varied only slightly across the four fiscal years of data presented in this *Juristat*, ranging from 24% to 25%. The proportion of Aboriginal people re-involved within one year ranged from 31% to 32%, and from 13% to 14% for non-Aboriginal people. These findings indicate that there is little year-to-year variation in these outcomes based upon these rates.

Similar to the fixed follow-up method, overall, the survival analysis results indicate that rates of re-involvement within one year are consistent for each fiscal year of release (see Figure 11 and Text table 6). Furthermore, the pattern of re-involvement over time is similar per fiscal year across the total group of persons released as well as for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups of releases. For example, six months following release, the rate of re-involvement ranged from 13% to 14% for the total group, from 17% to 19% for the Aboriginal group, and from 6% to 8% for the non-Aboriginal group.

Re-involvement rates after twelve months remain consistent for each of the five fiscal years, ranging from 22% to 25% for all persons released, from 30% to 32% for Aboriginal persons, and from 12% to 14% for non-Aboriginal persons (see Text table 6). Although censoring becomes quite heavy after approximately the sixth month and therefore the results become less reliable, the twelve month results are quite comparable to the one-year fixed follow-up rates presented in Text table 6. For example, the largest discrepancy between the fixed follow-up rate and the re-involvement rate derived from survival analysis occurred in fiscal year 2001/02, where the fixed follow-up rate for the total population was 25% compared to a survival rate of 23% at twelve months. Similarly, the fixed follow-up return rate for the Aboriginal group was 32% compared to a 12 month return rate of 31%, and the fixed return rate for non-Aboriginal persons was 14% versus 12% re-involvement at 12 months.

These findings suggest that while both methodologies are generally consistent in terms of their results, the survival analysis approach permits relatively good estimations of fixed follow-up rates in situations where a full year of follow-up data are not available. However, it should be noted that although survival analysis results may be relatively good estimates of re-involvement outcomes, the errors in estimates may result in false positives and/or false negatives when used in time series analysis of outcomes. That is, based on statistical estimations, a person may be estimated to return to correctional supervision, but in fact does not return (false positive), or a person may be estimated to not return to correctional supervision, and in fact, does (false negative). Thus, since no statistical estimation is utilized in the fixed follow-up analysis method of determining re-involvement outcome, it may be a preferable method to assess year-over-year changes in outcome.

Text Table 6

Re-involvement outcomes and estimated re-involvement rates, one-year following release, by fiscal year of release, Saskatchewan

Releasing Year	Offenders released	Offenders re-involved in any correctional service(s) ¹		Estimated re-involvement rate at month 12 ²	
	N	N	%	N	%
1999/00					
Total	5,496	1,316	23.9		24.7
Aboriginal	3,507	1,063	30.3		31.3
Non-Aboriginal	1,722	238	13.8		14.0
2000/01					
Total	5,301	1,274	24.0		22.5
Aboriginal	3,249	1,009	31.1		29.7
Non-Aboriginal	1,721	237	13.8		13.5
2001/02					
Total	5,384	1,351	25.1		23.3
Aboriginal	3,392	1,100	32.4		31.2
Non-Aboriginal	1,693	229	13.5		11.7
2002/03					
Total	5,618	1,384	24.6		24.9
Aboriginal	3,571	1,130	31.6		32.3
Non-Aboriginal	1,735	224	12.9		12.2
2003/04					
Total	5,655	...	...		25.7
Aboriginal	3,516	...	...		33.2
Non-Aboriginal	1,732	...	...		13.5

Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

... not applicable

1. Actual re-involvement rates per fiscal year. These analyses include those persons who are released from all correctional involvement and examines re-involvement for a fixed period of one year following release.

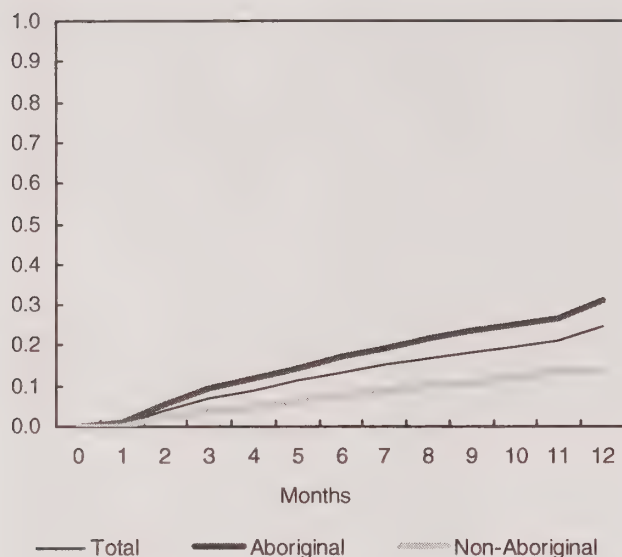
2. Refers to estimated re-involvement rates at month twelve, per survival analysis, per release cohort year. These analyses include those persons who are released from all correctional involvement and examines re-involvement within the same fiscal year.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 11

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2000, by Aboriginal identity², Saskatchewan

Proportion re-involved



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).

2. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Summary

This Juristat contained a demonstration of only a few analytical and practical applications of the data available from the ICSS to examine profiles of involvement and re-involvement in correctional services. Results suggest that those admitted to correctional services tend to have low levels of education, poor employment records, are young, and have a variety of needs that place them at risk for continued involvement in the correctional system. These characteristics were more prevalent in the Aboriginal population supervised in Saskatchewan corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Follow-up analyses demonstrated that many of the risk factors found in the research literature to be correlated with recidivism were also found to be related to re-involvement outcomes, including number of needs indicated, correctional history, most serious offence, and gender. Notably, Aboriginal persons consistently had higher re-involvement rates than non-Aboriginal persons, even when taking many risk-related factors into consideration. Furthermore, analyses revealed that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons involved in the correctional system in Saskatchewan differed in many characteristics which were shown to be related to outcome following release.

Aboriginal over-representation in the Canadian criminal justice system is an important social and criminal justice issue in Canada, and particularly in Saskatchewan. Given the higher

likelihood of return to the correctional system following release of Aboriginal adults compared to non-Aboriginal adults, and the young age profile of the general Aboriginal population, this problem of Aboriginal over-representation in the Saskatchewan correctional system is likely to continue.

Glossary

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.

2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order including reporting to a probation officer. In some circumstances, in addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may also place the offender on probation.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Bail supervision: Bail supervision, also referred to as pretrial supervision, is a supervised recognizance order that provides an alternative to custodial remand for persons awaiting trial. This is an option that incorporates supervision of the accused in the community (e.g., reporting to a probation officer, respecting curfew hours, etc.) as part of a judicial interim release.

Other community supervision programs: Includes restitution orders and community service orders.

Restitution order: A condition requiring the offender to make restitution for injuries or to pay compensation for loss of or damage to property as a result of the offence.

Community service order: A court order that the offender perform a certain number of hours of volunteer work or service in the community.

Most serious offence (MSO): Offences are ranked according to the Courts Program's Most Serious Offence Index, based on frequencies of charges and their sentences in adult provincial criminal court. The classification of offences into

generic categories is done using incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey's violation coding classification structure. The ICSS uses these indexes to determine and classify offences for which an offender is sentenced or being held in pre-trial supervision or bail supervision. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the three most serious offences per legal hold status are recorded.

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Table 1

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	25,112	100.0	14,349	100.0	8,871	100.0
Sex						
Male	20,996	83.6	11,611	80.9	7,949	89.6
Female	4,106	16.4	2,732	19.0	919	10.4
Unknown	10	0.0	6	0.0	3	0.0
Age at first involvement admission						
Under 18	41	0.2	34	0.2	6	0.1
18-19	3,549	14.1	2,231	15.5	1,043	11.8
20-24	5,262	21.0	3,075	21.4	1,738	19.6
25-29	4,141	16.5	2,610	18.2	1,239	14.0
30-34	3,650	14.5	2,290	16.0	1,130	12.7
35-39	3,278	13.1	1,863	13.0	1,203	13.6
40-44	2,241	8.9	1,082	7.5	977	11.0
45-49	1,313	5.2	567	4.0	646	7.3
over 50	1,637	6.5	597	4.2	889	10.0
Mean (Standard deviation)	31.0	(10.9)	29.7	(9.8)	33.1	(12.1)
Median	29.0		28.0		31.0	
Marital status²						
Single - never married	11,511	45.8	6,832	47.6	4,367	49.2
Married	2,768	11.0	1,438	10.0	1,237	13.9
Common-law	6,035	24.0	4,421	30.8	1,484	16.7
Separated/Divorced	2,964	11.8	1,340	9.3	1,538	17.3
Widowed	180	0.7	101	0.7	75	0.8
Unknown	1,654	6.6	217	1.5	170	1.9
Education completed²						
Some primary	1,778	7.1	1,487	10.4	263	3.0
Completed primary	1,790	7.1	1,347	9.4	404	4.6
Some secondary	11,238	44.8	7,571	52.8	3,445	38.8
Completed secondary	5,358	21.3	2,286	15.9	2,950	33.3
Some post-secondary	852	3.4	343	2.4	494	5.6
Completed post-secondary	751	3.0	201	1.4	529	6.0
Unknown	3,345	13.3	1,114	7.8	786	8.9
Employment status at admission²						
Unemployed (but able to work)	8,301	33.1	6,087	42.4	2,050	23.1
Employed (part-time, full-time)	9,938	39.6	4,621	32.2	5,050	56.9
Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc.	1,119	4.5	616	4.3	467	5.3
Student - not employed	1,149	4.6	902	6.3	208	2.3
Other - not employed	1,304	5.2	969	6.8	307	3.5
Unknown	3,300	13.1	1,154	8.0	789	8.9
Need indicated^{2,3}						
Substance abuse (n = 18,866)	15,400	81.6	10,241	90.4	4,310	67.2
Attitude (n = 18,809)	11,897	63.3	7,597	67.3	3,584	56.1
Family/marital (n = 18,869)	9,783	51.8	6,342	56.0	2,867	44.7
Personal/emotional (n = 18,867)	3,322	17.6	1,890	16.7	1,225	19.1
Social interaction (n = 18,863)	12,179	64.6	8,428	74.4	3,147	49.1
Employment (n = 18,868)	9,284	49.2	6,783	59.9	2,083	32.5
Number of needs indicated^{2,4}						
Zero to one	2,624	14.0	884	7.8	1,551	24.3
Two to three	7,215	38.4	3,842	34.0	2,870	44.9
Four	4,551	24.2	3,167	28.0	1,141	17.8
Five to six	4,419	23.5	3,403	30.1	832	13.0
Mean (Standard deviation)	3.3	(1.5)	3.6	(1.4)	2.7	(1.5)
Median	3.0		4.0		3.0	

Table 1

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04 – concluded

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Most serious offence, First involvement						
Violent offences	11,480	45.8	7,249	50.6	3,409	38.5
Serious violent offences ⁵	3,512	14.0	2,585	18.0	749	9.0
Sexual offences ⁶	1,076	4.3	629	4.4	396	5.2
Robbery	685	2.7	477	3.3	176	2.5
Common Assault	4,705	18.8	2,815	19.6	1,438	21.4
Other violent offences ⁷	1,502	6.0	743	5.2	650	10.4
Property offences	5,462	21.8	2,842	19.8	2,147	37.2
Break and Enter	1,643	6.5	1,009	7.0	530	11.8
Theft and Possession of Property	2,069	8.2	1,151	8.0	733	19.3
Fraud	1,140	4.5	393	2.7	641	18.8
Other property offences	610	2.4	289	2.0	243	7.1
Offences against the Administration of Justice	1,748	7.0	1,125	7.9	490	14.4
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	1,216	4.8	656	4.6	460	13.5
<i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences	2,990	11.9	1,533	10.7	1,262	37.0
Drug offences	1,312	5.2	492	3.4	706	20.7
Other offences ⁸	876	3.5	433	3.0	391	11.5

Note: Consists of persons who completed at least one involvement.

1. Includes 1,892 (8%) cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

2. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

3. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high.

4. Includes only those cases in which all needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of needs is 6 and minimum is 0. N = 18,809, N (Aboriginal) = 11,296, N (Non-Aboriginal) = 6,394.

5. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major (non-sexual) assault.

6. Includes sexual assault (all levels) and other sexual offences.

7. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

8. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

**Re-involvement status of 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004,
by selected characteristics, Saskatchewan**

	Persons released	Persons failing		Persons not failing (censored) ¹		Mean survival time in months ²	(Standard error)
	N	N	%	N	%		
Total	5,496	2,593	47.2	2,903	52.8	38.80	(0.3165)
Aboriginal identity							
Aboriginal	3,440	2,060	59.9	1,380	40.1	33.21	(0.4051)
Non-Aboriginal	1,722	493	28.6	1,229	71.4	45.03	(0.4677)
Sex							
Male	4,675	2,293	49.0	2,382	51.0	37.85	(0.3463)
Female	819	298	36.4	521	63.6	43.75	(0.7361)
Age							
24 and under	1,632	859	52.6	773	47.4	35.02	(0.5820)
25-34	1,909	962	50.4	947	49.6	37.79	(0.5373)
35 and over	1,955	772	39.5	1,183	60.5	41.63	(0.4942)
Type of involvement³							
Custody only	1,647	942	57.2	705	42.8	33.84	(0.5957)
Custody and community	1,372	853	62.2	519	37.8	31.23	(0.6322)
Community only	2,477	798	32.2	1,679	67.8	44.27	(0.3895)
Number of needs indicated⁴							
Zero to One	554	137	24.7	417	75.3	46.41	(0.7248)
Two to Three	1,726	744	43.1	982	56.9	40.82	(0.5305)
Four	1,154	710	61.5	444	38.5	32.05	(0.6836)
Five to Six	1,151	823	71.5	328	28.5	26.61	(0.6895)

1. Censored observations represent persons who have not returned to correctional services by the end of the data collection period.

2. The mean survival time and its standard error were underestimated because the largest observation was censored and the estimation was restricted to the largest event time.

3. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.

4. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Number of needs indicated includes the number of needs indicated at the medium or high level. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

**Re-involvement status of 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004,
by selected characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan**

	Persons released	Persons failing		Persons not failing (censored) ¹		Mean survival time ²	(Standard error)
	N	N	%	N	%		
Aboriginal							
Sex							
Male	2,861	1,802	63.0	1,059	37.0	31.66	(0.4434)
Female	577	256	44.4	321	55.6	40.51	(0.9195)
Age							
24 and under	1,054	701	66.5	353	33.5	28.79	(0.7138)
25-34	1,290	792	61.4	498	38.6	33.16	(0.6545)
35 and over	1,096	567	51.7	529	48.3	36.47	(0.6923)
Type of involvement³							
Custody only	1,153	781	67.7	372	32.3	29.05	(0.6977)
Custody and community	1,017	704	69.2	313	30.8	28.25	(0.7158)
Community only	1,270	575	45.3	695	54.7	39.06	(0.5897)
Number of needs indicated⁴							
Zero to One	213	86	40.4	127	59.6	40.86	(1.3523)
Two to Three	1,007	546	54.2	461	45.8	36.16	(0.7176)
Four	853	584	68.5	269	31.5	29.13	(0.7778)
Five to Six	924	716	77.5	208	22.5	23.92	(0.7351)
Non-Aboriginal							
Sex							
Male	1,553	460	29.6	1,093	70.4	44.59	(0.4995)
Female	169	33	19.5	136	80.5	42.13	(1.0246)
Age							
24 and under	480	139	29.0	341	71.0	41.48	(0.8135)
25-34	509	157	30.8	351	69.0	42.48	(0.8581)
35 and over	733	196	26.7	537	73.3	45.94	(0.6879)
Type of involvement³							
Custody only	456	154	33.8	302	66.2	39.34	(0.8645)
Custody and community	342	147	43.0	195	57.0	35.54	(1.0944)
Community only	924	192	20.8	732	79.2	48.62	(0.5451)
Number of needs indicated⁴							
Zero to One	305	47	15.4	258	84.6	41.88	(0.6534)
Two to Three	603	184	30.5	419	69.5	41.54	(0.7075)
Four	250	119	47.6	131	52.4	35.65	(1.3593)
Five to Six	191	97	50.8	94	49.2	33.43	(1.6336)

1. Censored observations represent persons who have not returned to correctional services by the end of the data collection period.

2. The mean survival time and its standard error were underestimated because the largest observation was censored and the estimation was restricted to the largest event time.

3. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.

4. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Number of needs indicated includes the number of needs indicated at the medium or high level. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Characteristics of re-involvements of 1999/00 release cohort within four years of release, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total re-involved	2,503	47.2	1,985	57.7	480	27.9
Total number of re-involvements						
mean (standard deviation)	2.2	(1.6)	2.3	(1.6)	1.7	(1.2)
median	2.0		2.0		1.0	
Length of first re-involvement						
1 to 90 days	982	41.5	811	42.9	165	37.2
3 to 6 months	339	14.3	281	14.9	53	12.0
>6 months to 1 year	486	20.5	373	19.7	103	23.3
>1 year to 2 years	437	18.4	331	17.5	94	21.2
more than 2 years	125	5.3	96	5.1	28	6.3
First re-involvement, admitting legal status type^{1,2}						
Sentenced Custody	494	19.8	403	20.3	91	19.0
Remand	1,074	43.0	885	44.7	182	38.0
Temporary Detention	65	2.6	56	2.8	9	1.9
Conditional Sentence	314	12.6	250	12.6	59	12.3
Probation	480	19.2	330	16.6	125	26.1
Bail Supervision	72	2.9	58	2.9	13	2.7
Most serious legal status type, all re-involvements^{1,2}						
Sentenced Custody	1,629	65.1	1357	68.4	267	55.7
Remand	370	14.8	287	14.5	79	16.5
Temporary Detention	20	0.8	16	0.8	4	0.8
Conditional Sentence	186	7.4	136	6.9	45	9.4
Probation	283	11.3	178	9.0	81	16.9
Bail Supervision	13	0.5	10	0.5	3	0.6

Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

1. Includes rank-ordered most serious legal status type, and therefore types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive.

2. Because there were fewer than five individuals in the 'other community program' category, this category has been excluded.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

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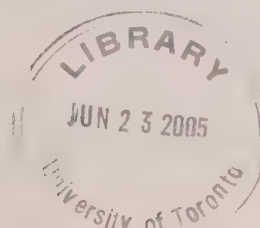
by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Highlights

- Between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004, there were 95,326 admissions of women and dependent children (58,486 women and 36,840 children) to 473 shelters across Canada, largely for reasons of abuse.
- According to the trend data from the last four cycles of the Transition Home Survey (THS), in 2003/04 total annual admissions of women and children declined 7% over the previous survey cycle and have decreased 11% since 1997/98. However, these declines are due largely to drops in the annual admission of children to shelters, which decreased 12% from 2001/02, and 21% from 1997/98. Annual admissions for women declined 3% over 2001/02 and 3% over 1997/98, as well.
- On April 14, 2004 there were 6,109 women and children in shelters. Of these, 2,496 women (76%) and 2,501 children (88%) were in shelters for reasons of abuse.
- The number of residents in shelters for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues has increased. Trend data indicate that while the number of women in shelters to escape abuse was virtually unchanged, up 1% from 1998 compared to 2004, the number of women in shelters for reasons other than abuse grew by 11%.
- Transition homes constituted the largest proportion of facilities providing residential services to abused women in each of the survey years since 1997/98, but their proportions have declined slightly over time (62% in 2003/04, down from 67% in 1997/98). Conversely, the proportion of general emergency shelters (9%, up from 5% in 1997/98) and women's emergency centres (7%, up from 5% in 1997/98) increased.
- The proportion of women in abusive situations residing in short-term, emergency facilities has grown. Specifically, the proportion of abused women using women's emergency centres increased steadily each year, from 5% in 1998 to 10% in 2004. In contrast, the proportion of abused women in transition homes on snapshot day declined from 62% in 1998 to 56% in 2004.
- A total of 3,519 women (52%) and dependent children (48%) were admitted to 31 on-reserve shelters between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004, up from 3,262 women and children admitted to 31 on-reserve shelters in 2001/02. Compared to shelters off reserves, a larger proportion of emergency-type shelters were found on reserves, 19% off-reserve versus 35% on-reserve.
- Nearly one-third (31%) of all women in shelters on April 14, 2004 had resided at that same shelter sometime in the past. Of these, four in ten had been there once in the previous year, 38% had been there two to four times and about one in ten (9%) had been to the facility five or more times in the last year.
- About one in ten (11%) women planned to return to their spouse or partner. However, the majority (62%) of women leaving shelters on snapshot day did not intend to return home to their spouse or partner. It was unknown where a quarter (27%) of the women departing intended to reside.
- Of the 93 shelters that could not accommodate or would not admit 221 women and 112 children on April 14, 2004, 62% reported referring them elsewhere because the shelter was full, a decline from previous years (75% of shelters that referred women and children elsewhere in 2001/02 and 71% in 1999/00). Other reasons for turning away clients relate to problems with alcohol and substance abuse as well as mental health issues.
- The proportion of facilities providing programming for children exposed to violence declined from three-quarters of shelters in 1999/00, to 68% in 2001/02, and 57% in 2003/04.



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Introduction

Across Canada, shelters are a critical source of support for many women and children escaping domestic violence and they are an essential component of the services and programs responding to the needs of victims of domestic violence. During 2003/04, more than 95,000 women and children were admitted to 473 shelters nationwide, largely for reasons of abuse. More than just a safe place to stay, shelters offer women and their children access to a variety of services that will help them better their lives, and often provide outreach activities, thereby extending their support to those residing outside of the facility.

The decision to go to a shelter can be influenced by a number of considerations.¹ Women wanting to escape an abusive situation may not know where to go for help or even if there are any shelters in their community. If they have children, abused women may be afraid of losing their children or having to leave them behind if they go to a shelter. They may fear that their spouse or partner will seek retribution if they leave. Women may be concerned about what their family, friends and/or community will think if it is discovered that they are in a shelter. These are just a few of the issues that women in abusive situations contemplate before deciding to use a shelter.

This *Juristat* presents a profile of shelters providing residential services to abused women and their children across Canada in 2003/04. Additionally, through the use of a snapshot day (April 14, 2004), selected characteristics of the women and children using these facilities are presented. Data for this *Juristat* come primarily from the Transition Home Survey (THS).

Box 1: Non-residential agencies serving victims of domestic violence

In addition to the residential services offered by shelters, there are a number of non-residential agencies to which victims of domestic violence can turn for help. These agencies deliver a wide range of services and programming to victims of crime, including assistance through the various stages of the criminal justice process, counselling, emotional support and financial compensation.

The first national survey of non-residential victim services agencies, The Victim Services Survey (VSS), was conducted in 2003 by Statistic Canada's Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Funded through Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues and developed in consultation with federal, provincial and territorial ministries responsible for justice and victim services as well as a number of victim services agencies nationwide, the VSS is a census of victim services agencies across Canada. Victim services are defined as agencies that provide direct services to primary or secondary victims of crime and are funded in whole or in part by a ministry responsible for justice matters.

The objective of the Victim Services Survey is to provide a profile of victim services agencies, information on the types of services offered and some insight into the clients using these services (through the use of a snapshot of clients served on October 22, 2003). Additionally, standardized information from criminal injuries compensation and other financial benefit programs was also collected.

According to the Victim Services Survey, many of these agencies directed their efforts toward assisting victims of domestic violence. For example, adult victims of spousal abuse were the focus of about two-thirds of victim services agencies, 63% of agencies targeted adult victims of other domestic violence², and senior victims of partner abuse were the focus of 79% of victim services agencies (Kong 2004). Children or youth who were the victims of domestic violence were the focus of about four in ten agencies. Sexually abused/exploited children and youth were the target population of nearly half of all agencies, and nearly 40% of victim services agencies targeted child or youth victims of physical abuse/neglect (Kong 2004). Through the Victim Services Survey one day snapshot (October 22, 2003) it was found that more than 40% (1,339) of female victims served by such agencies were the victims of a violent crime committed by their spouse, ex-spouse, or intimate partner (Kong 2004).

For more information see: Kong, Rebecca. 2004. "Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 24, no. 11. Ottawa: Minister of Industry.

1. According to the 1999 GSS, about half (48%) of women who had experienced spousal violence in the past five years reported seeking help from some type of social service. About one in ten female victims of spousal violence used a shelter or transition home (Pottie Bunge 2000).
2. Adult victims of other domestic violence include adults who have experienced violence in the home by someone with whom they reside, other than by a partner. This includes adult secondary victims who have witnessed domestic violence, including witnessing partner abuse among a couple (e.g., an adult child who has witnessed the abuse of their mother by their father; a mother who has witnessed the abuse of her adult daughter by her son-in-law, etc.).

About the Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey (THS) is a biennial census of all residential facilities that provide shelter to female victims of domestic violence.³ Questionnaires are mailed to all shelters or agencies known to provide residential services to abused women in every province and territory. In order to provide a more accurate picture of the facilities used by abused women, the THS includes shelters that may serve a broader population, in addition to women escaping domestic violence.⁴ Information is collected on the characteristics of the facilities and the services provided during the previous 12 months (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004). For the 2003/04 THS, 543 shelters were contacted and responses were received from 473 or 87%.⁵

Whenever possible and appropriate, cross-sectional comparisons will be made with findings from previous cycles of the THS. As well, comparisons over time will be made using time-series data from the THS Trend File. The THS Trend File contains only those facilities that participated in the survey in each of the following years: 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02 and 2003/04, thereby controlling for non-response and changes to the composition of shelters due to openings of new facilities and shelter closures.⁶ Information from the THS Trend File will therefore be based on a subset of 332 shelters (representing 61% of all shelters in Canada for 2003/04).

Victims of spousal violence in Canada

Both women and men are victims of spousal violence. Findings from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization indicate that 8% of women and 7% of men had experienced

spousal violence in the previous five years. However, the survey also found that the violence women suffer tends to be more severe in nature (e.g., beaten, choked, sexually assaulted) and repeated. Moreover, as a result of experiencing spousal abuse, women are three times more likely to be injured, five times more likely to seek medical attention and five times more likely to fear for their lives than men (Pottie Bunge 2000: 11).

Keeping in mind that only a fraction of spousal violence comes to the attention of police (according to the 1999 GSS, just over one-quarter of those who had been the victim of spousal violence the past five years, indicated that they had reported that violence to police), police-reported data indicate that rates of spousal assault have shown a slight decrease in more recent years. According to a non-representative subset of 71 police departments, the rates of police-reported spousal assault rose steadily from 1998 to 2000, but from 2001 to 2003 rates declined.⁷ This trend was true for both male and female victims of spousal violence. Nevertheless, annual rates of police-reported spousal violence were, on average, more than five times higher for females than for males. It should be noted that data from the 1999 GSS indicate that men are also less likely than women to report incidents of spousal violence to police. That men typically experience less serious forms of violence and experience less repeated violence may contribute to this difference (Brzozowski 2004).

Recent policies and legislation reflect emerging awareness of domestic violence issues

Over the last two decades, efforts, largely by women's groups and grassroots movements, have helped bring about a number of policy and legislative developments which reflect an increased awareness of domestic violence and the issues that abused women face. The implementation of spousal abuse charging and prosecution directives and the enactment of civil domestic violence legislation are just two examples.

Since the 1980's there has been a shift in how the justice system responds to domestic violence. No longer treated as a private matter, each province and territory has charging and prosecution directives or policies in place to ensure that spousal violence cases are treated as criminal offences. Moreover, these policies also aim at ensuring the safety and security of victims, promoting victim reporting to police and increasing the system's capacity to handle domestic violence issues.

3. Shelters that do not provide residential accommodations are excluded.
4. For example, shelters that provide residential services to abused women as well as to other populations such as male victims of spousal abuse, and men and women in shelters for reasons other than abuse are included. Facilities that *exclusively* serve male victims of spousal abuse fall outside the scope of this survey. At the time of this survey, only one such facility was known to be in operation.
5. Shelters may operate multiple types of residential services (e.g., a shelter might operate a transition home as well as second stage housing). Facilities operating more than one type of residential service were asked to complete a separate questionnaire for each type of residential service they provided.
6. The exclusion of certain shelters, as well as non-response for certain questions by participating shelters, means that some information based on the 2003/04 survey is undercounted or incomplete. This is not the case for the information based on the trend data file.
7. These findings are based on a subset of 71 police departments (active as of December 31, 2003 representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003) who consistently reported to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Report (UCR2) Survey from 1998 to 2003 and therefore, are not nationally representative.

Box 2: Types of residential facilities for abused women and children: Definitions used in the Transition Home Survey

The term 'shelter', is used broadly to refer to all residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children. The types of shelters defined by the Transition Home Survey include:

Transition Home – Short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks), also referred to as first stage emergency housing.

Second Stage Housing – Long-term (3-12 months), secure housing with support and referral services designed to assist women while they search for permanent housing.

Safe Home Network – A network of private homes in rural or remote areas where there is no full-fledged operating shelter. It offers subsidiary very short-term (1-3 days), emergency housing.

Women's Emergency Centre/Shelter – Short-term (1-21 days), respite (temporary relief) for women and their dependent children.

Emergency Shelter – Short-term (1-3 days), respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Some facilities may provide accommodation for men as well as women. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are not associated with family abuse but are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction for non-payment of rent). Other than residential (room and board) services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Family Resource Centre – An Ontario government initiative that serves a wide range of clients and provides clients with an extensive array of information and referrals as well as residential services.

Other – All other facilities/shelters not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCAs. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

With respect to spousal violence, 'pro'- charging (referred to as 'mandatory' in some jurisdictions) policies, first introduced in the mid-1980s, require that charges be laid where there are reasonable and probable grounds to do so, regardless of the victim's wishes. Thus, the victim is relieved of the burden of deciding whether or not to press or drop charges. 'Pro'- prosecution policies require the Crown to prosecute spousal violence cases whenever there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction and it is in the public interest to do so. By the early 1990's, many jurisdictions had expanded their spousal abuse charging and prosecution policies to address a variety of issues including: procedures for withdrawing or staying charges, the use of peace bonds, measures for promoting victim participation in the prosecution as well as the services and support that should be provided to victims. Currently, pro-charging and pro-prosecution policies are in place across all provinces and territories (Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation 2003: 11). By 2003, according to a subset of 122 police departments⁸, charges were laid in 80% of all spousal violence incidents (82% with a female victim, 70% with a male victim), 8% of incidents were not cleared⁹ and 12% were cleared otherwise¹⁰.

In addition to changes affecting criminal justice, several jurisdictions across the country have or will be enacting civil domestic violence legislation in order to provide victims of domestic violence with further options for safety. Saskatchewan (1995), Prince Edward Island (1996), the Yukon Territory (1999), Manitoba (1999), Alberta (1999), Nova Scotia (2003), the Northwest Territories (2005) and Ontario (passed in 2000, but not yet proclaimed) have all passed similar types of civil domestic violence legislation giving victims in crisis situations access to emergency protection orders.¹¹ Given some inter-jurisdictional variations, the basic objective of this legislation is to grant those experiencing domestic violence with immediate protection and ready access to the justice system, with the hope that early intervention will prevent an escalation of the violence. Examples of components of protective orders are: giving the victim sole access to the family home; removing the abuser from the home; and prohibiting the abuser from contacting or communicating with the victim (Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation 2003).¹²

The establishment of shelters as a refuge for women trying to escape abusive situations dates back to the 1970's. Since that time, there has been considerable expansion in the number of shelters, with the largest period of growth occurring during the 1980's. As awareness of domestic violence and violence against women, in particular, increased in the late 1970's and early 1980s, government attention became more focused on these issues. Subsequently, the co-operative efforts and partnerships of the federal and provincial/territorial governments and community groups, led to the development of a substantial system of transition homes, second stage houses, and emergency shelters across the country (Code 2003). Prior to 1975, there were just 18 known shelters in Canada. Currently there are more than 500 facilities nationwide that provide residential services to women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Number and types of residential facilities in Canada

There has been a shift in the types of facilities providing shelter to abused women and their children

Similar to previous years, the vast majority of shelters participated in the 2003/04 Transition Home Survey. Of the 543 facilities known to be in operation, 473 (87%) participated in the seventh cycle of the survey (Table 1).¹³ More than half (53%) of these facilities providing residential services to women were transition homes. About one in five facilities were second stage houses (18%) and another fifth were emergency-type shelters (including 9% women's emergency centres and 11% general emergency shelters). The remaining 9% included other types of facilities such as safe home networks, Rural family Violence Prevention Centres (Alberta), Interim Housing (Manitoba), and Family Violence Resource Centres (Ontario). This is similar to the distribution of shelters responding to the 2001/02 survey. However compared to 1997/98, the proportion of transition homes reporting to the survey has declined (down from 63% in 1997/98) and the proportion of emergency-type shelters increased, representing 20% of reporting shelters in 2003/04, up from 12% in 1997/98.

According to the THS Trend File, there has been a shift in the types of facilities that are providing shelter to abused women and their children. For example, in 1997/98, 67% of shelters were transition homes compared to 62% in 2003/04. And while transition homes constituted the largest proportion of facilities providing residential services to abused women in each of the survey years since 1997/98, emergency facilities have gained in their share. Specifically, the proportion of general emergency shelters increased from 5% of all shelters in 1997/98 to 9% in 2003/04. Similarly, 7% of facilities were women's emergency centres in 2003/04, up from 5% in 1997/98. Second stage housing consistently represented 13% of the shelters included among facilities reporting each year from 1997/98 to 2003/04.

Tracking of facilities over subsequent survey cycles, indicates that some facilities have changed from one classification of shelter type to another. For example, the decline in the proportion of transition homes and concurrent increase in the proportion of emergency-type shelters is largely due to the conversion of transition homes to general emergency shelters

8. These data represent 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

9. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused has not been identified in connection with the incident.

10. 'Cleared otherwise' refers to incidents where the complainant requests charges not to be laid or incidents cleared for other reasons including: departmental discretion, reason beyond department control, suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years old, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, diversionary program and unknown.

11. New Brunswick is currently considering implementing such legislation.

12. It is likely too soon for the impact of these new measures on victims' safety and their use of shelters to be reflected in THS results.

13. Facilities that house/operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one survey. In such cases, the determination of shelter type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see Data Sources).

Table 1

Number of shelters operating and responding to the Transition Home Survey by province and territory, 2003/04^{1,2}

	Number operating	Number that responded	%
Canada	543	473	87
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	12	86
Prince Edward Island	4	4	100
Nova Scotia	19	19	100
New Brunswick	17	16	94
Quebec	117	102	87
Ontario	155	132	85
Manitoba	27	23	85
Saskatchewan	23	18	78
Alberta	43	42	98
British Columbia	105	94	90
Yukon	6	3	50
Northwest Territories	7	5	71
Nunavut	6	3	50

1. Facilities that house/operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one survey. In such cases, the determination of shelter type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see Data Sources).

2. Compared to the 2001/02 THS, in 2003/04 response rates were notably lower for Ontario (93% vs. 85%), Quebec (94% vs. 87%), Saskatchewan (91% vs. 78%), Yukon (83% vs. 50%) and Nunavut (80% vs. 50%) but higher for Alberta (90% vs. 98%).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

or women's emergency centres. Much of this shift in shelter composition from transition homes to emergency-type shelters can be attributed to changes in the make-up of shelters in Ontario, which constituted over one-quarter of all facilities in Canada in 2003/04. Between 1997/98 and 2003/04, Ontario reported the largest decrease in the number of transition homes (down 12 shelters) and the greatest increase in the number of emergency-type shelters (up 11 shelters).

This shift in the composition of shelters may have a number of implications, particularly for service delivery and victim protection. The primary purpose of women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters is immediate, short-term respite. Further, emergency shelters serve a much broader population and range of needs than transition homes and second stage houses. These emergency-type facilities may not have the necessary resources to offer specialized programming and services to abused women, as these services fall outside of their primary mandate. Therefore, abused women may experience reduced access to the services they need. In addition, they may be subject to shorter stays in women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters, and as a result, more apt to return to the shelter in the future. Nevertheless, the precise reasons for the change from one shelter type to another cannot be determined from the survey data. For example, an emergency shelter in 2003/04 that was formerly a transition home in 1997/98 may have changed designations because of the opening of a new transition house in that facility's service area.

The 473 shelters surveyed housed 8,879 licensed or funded beds. However, this count may not be a true reflection of shelter capacity. When shelters are full, emergency accommodations may be made and women may be offered the use of emergency beds such as cots and sofas. Bed counts on the Transition Home Survey only include beds that are licensed or funded and therefore, do not capture these emergency or overflow beds.

Overall, the number of shelters in operation has continued to grow. There were 14 new shelters participating on the 2003/04 survey. However, 11 of these shelters were affiliated or housed within pre-existing facilities. Shelters may house multiple facility types for a number of reasons including operational factors such as costs, the length of stay, the location and a lack of housing options for women and children upon departure. Furthermore, the introduction of a new shelter type does not necessarily mean a corresponding increase in the residential capacity. There were seven shelters that participated in the 2001/02 survey, but had closed by 2003/04.

Annual admissions

A growing proportion of annual admissions are to emergency shelters

Between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004¹⁴, there were 95,326 admissions of women and children to shelters across Canada, in the majority of instances, to escape abuse (Table 2).¹⁵ Of the 58,486 women and 36,840 children admitted to shelters in 2003/04, half (51%) resided in transition homes, while 39% resided in short-term facilities, including women's emergency centres (14%) and general emergency shelters (25%). Compared to 2001/02, the proportion of admissions to transition homes has declined slightly from 53% of all admissions, and dropped slightly for women's emergency shelters, down from 17%, but has risen for admissions to general emergency shelters, up from 20% in 2001/02.

According to the THS Trend File, in 2003/04 the overall number of annual admissions to shelters declined 7% compared to 2001/02 and 11% from 1997/98. These declines are due largely to drops in the annual admission of children to shelters. Annual counts for children dropped 12% between 2001/02 and 2003/04. The gap was even greater for children's admissions between 1997/98 and 2003/04, with a decline of 21% in 2003/04. In 2003/04, annual admissions of women declined 3% compared to 2001/02 and were also 3% lower than in 1997/98. Declines in the admission of children to shelters may be explained, in part, by an overall drop in the representation of children in the general population. Between 1998 and 2004, the number of children in Canada aged 14 and under dropped 4%, and children went from representing 20% of the country's population to 18% during this time period.

14. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2004 or their own twelve-month fiscal period.

15. Facilities that house/operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one questionnaire. In such cases, the determination of shelter type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see Data Sources).

Table 2

Number of annual admissions to shelters by provinces and territories and facility type, Canada, 2003/04¹

	Facility type											
	All facility types			Transition house			Second stage housing			Safe home network		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	95,326	58,486	36,840	48,851	28,161	20,690	3,342	1,497	1,845	426	230	196
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,084	650	434	816	446	370	16	11	5	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	174	98	76	139	82	57	35	16	19	0	0	0
Nova Scotia ³	8,162	7,417	745	1,652	990	662	151	68	83	0	0	0
New Brunswick	1,756	1,012	744	1,671	978	693	85	34	51	0	0	0
Quebec ⁴	14,980	9,207	5,773	13,889	8,309	5,580	255	130	125	0	0	0
Ontario	28,791	17,226	11,565	12,683	7,333	5,350	1,259	635	624	0	0	0
Manitoba	4,952	2,441	2,511	472	226	246	267	101	166	0	0	0
Saskatchewan	3,986	1,926	2,060	2,236	1,059	1,177	99	36	63	8	3	5
Alberta	13,707	7,729	5,978	1,740	916	824	706	277	429	0	0	0
British Columbia	15,499	9,666	5,833	11,604	6,841	4,763	423	170	253	418	227	191
Yukon	607	388	219	590	376	214	17	12	5	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	722	354	368	632	308	324	29	7	22	0	0	0
Nunavut	906	372	534	727	297	430	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Women's emergency centre			Emergency shelter			Family resource centre			Other ²		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	13,345	8,097	5,248	23,921	16,938	6,983	1,628	913	715	3,813	2,650	1,163
Newfoundland and Labrador	11	6	5	225	171	54	0	0	0	16	16	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia ³	0	0	0	6,359	6,359	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quebec ⁴	19	6	13	117	62	55	0	0	0	700	700	0
Ontario	2,515	1,515	1,000	8,184	5,194	2,990	1,628	913	715	2,522	1,636	886
Manitoba	1,894	1,113	781	2,133	934	1,199	0	0	0	186	67	119
Saskatchewan	110	58	52	1,508	745	763	0	0	0	25	25	0
Alberta	7,926	4,780	3,146	2,997	1,563	1,434	0	0	0	338	193	145
British Columbia	758	581	177	2,270	1,834	436	0	0	0	26	13	13
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	61	39	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunavut	112	38	74	67	37	30	0	0	0	0	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2004 or their own twelve month fiscal period. Because the number and type of shelters participating in each cycle of the THS may vary, comparisons of admissions from 2003/04 to results from previous survey cycles are not advisable.

2. 'Other' includes all other facilities/shelters not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

3. Admissions to emergency shelters make-up a substantial proportion of admissions to shelters in Nova Scotia. Since abused women may represent only a small segment of the population using the residential services of an emergency shelter, the majority of annual admissions to shelters in Nova Scotia are likely for reasons other than to escape spousal violence. Emergency shelters serve a wide population, providing residential accommodations to those who find themselves in need of refuge for a variety of reasons. Admissions for 2003/04 are not comparable with admission figures from previous survey cycles due to variations in the number and type of shelters reporting to the THS from cycle to cycle.

4. Admissions for shelters in Quebec for 2003/04 are not comparable with admission figures from previous cycles of the survey, due to changes in the administrative counting practises of certain shelters in that province.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Findings from the THS Trend File data coincide with the findings reported above, also pointing to a rise in admissions to shorter-term facilities. The proportion of annual admissions to transition homes, which offer moderate to long-term refuge, has declined since 1997/98. At the same time, there has been an increase in the proportion of women and children admitted to short-term, emergency facilities which may not offer the services and programming to meet the particular needs of those fleeing domestic violence. For example in 2003/04, 62% of annual admissions were to transition homes, down from 75% in

1997/98. Whereas annual admissions to women's emergency centres grew from 11% in 1997/98 to 13% in 2003/04, and the proportion of general emergency shelter admissions rose from 7% to 16% during the same time period. Overall, admissions to emergency-type facilities increased from 18% of all admissions in 1997/98 to 24% in 1999/00, 26% in 2001/02 and 29% in 2003/04. Annual admissions to second stage houses remained stable at about 3% each year of the survey between 1997/98 and 2003/04.

Resident profile, April 14, 2004

On April 14, 2004 there were 6,109 women (3,274) and children (2,835) residing in shelters nation-wide. Among these women and children, eight out of ten were fleeing abuse. Specifically, 2,496 (76%) women and 2,501 (88%) children staying in shelters on the snapshot day were there to escape an abusive situation.

Across Canada, the average rate of abused women residing in shelters was 25 per 100,000 population of married, common law and separated women (Table 3).¹⁶ For the previous survey cycle, the rate was 24 per 100,000 population of married, common law and separated women. Among the provinces,¹⁷ rates of shelter usage for women fleeing the abuse of a spousal relationship were highest in Prince Edward Island (37), Nova Scotia (35) and Saskatchewan (30). However, caution must be used when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons. Rates of shelter usage should not be taken as a direct measure of the incidence of spousal violence in that province. Inter-provincial differences in rates may be the result of a variety of factors such as the capacity and availability of shelters, the catchment area shelters serve and the number of shelters that participated in the survey (Code 2003).

Table 3

Rate¹ of women in shelters to escape the abuse of a current or former spouse or common law partner on April 14, 2004, Canada, provinces and territories

	Number of women in shelters on April 14, 2004 to escape the abuse of current or former spouse or common law partner ²	Population of married, common law and separated women ³	Rate per 100,000 married, common law and separated women
Canada	1,973	7,798,290	25
Newfoundland and Labrador	25	137,695	18
Prince Edward Island	13	35,255	37
Nova Scotia	82	236,078	35
New Brunswick	50	191,014	26
Quebec	401	1,790,822	22
Ontario	721	3,071,491	23
Manitoba	72	273,096	26
Saskatchewan	70	235,283	30
Alberta	225	774,859	29
British Columbia	285	1,030,734	28
Yukon Territory	8	7,585	105
Northwest Territories	8	9,214	87
Nunavut	13	5,164	252

1. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

2. On April 14, 2004, 79% of abused women in shelters were there to escape an abusive spouse, common law partner, ex-spouse or ex-common law partner.

3. Separated includes persons currently married, but who are no longer living with their spouse (for any reason other than illness or work) and have not obtained a divorce. Persons who are separated but who live with a common-law partner are not included in this category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Three-quarters of women residing in shelters were fleeing abuse

The proportion of women and children in shelters for reasons of abuse on April 14, 2004 was slightly higher than it had been on April 15, 2002 (73% of women and 84% of children), but remained smaller than the proportion of women and children in shelters to escape abuse on April 17, 2000 (81% of women and 91% of children).

More specifically, using the THS Trend File, it is found that, since 1998, the number of residents in shelters for reasons other than abuse has increased. Among those 332 facilities included in the Trend File, the number of women in shelters to escape abuse on snapshot day in 2004 was virtually unchanged, up just 1%, compared to 1998. However, the number of women in shelters for other reasons grew by 11% between 1998 and 2004. Nevertheless, the historical data also indicate that the rise in the number of women in shelters for reasons other than abuse had little effect on the overall representation of these women among shelter residents. On April 20, 1998, 17% of women in shelters were there for reasons other than abuse, as were 18% of women on snapshot day in 2004.

While the number of women using shelters on snapshot day has grown, historical data show that the types of shelters being used have changed with the growth in emergency-type shelters. Specifically, the proportion of abused women staying in women's emergency centres increased steadily each year, going from 5% on April 20, 1998 to 10% on April 14, 2004. Use of general emergency shelters was more stable. On snapshot day in 1998, 9% of women seeking shelter from abuse were residing in general emergency shelters, as were 11% in 2000, 8% in 2002 and 9% again on snapshot day in 2004. The proportion of abused women in transition homes on snapshot day declined from 62% in 1998 to 56% in 2004.

Shelter residents most often reported experiencing psychological or emotional abuse and physical abuse

Domestic violence can assume many forms and women fleeing abusive situations frequently suffer more than one type of abuse. On snapshot day in 2004, of the three-quarters of women staying in shelters to escape abuse, 86% were fleeing psychological or emotional abuse, 68% physical abuse (compared to 74% in 2001/02), 50% threats, 46% financial abuse, 31% harassment and 27% sexual abuse.¹⁸ With the exception of physical abuse, the proportions of women in shelters to escape the various forms of abuse were similar on the 2003/04 THS, relative to the previous cycle.

16. Rates are based on the number of women in shelters on April 14, 2004 to escape the abuse of a current or former spouse or common law partner. On that day, 79% of abused women in shelters were there to escape an abusive spousal relationship, including either a current or previous spouse or common-law partner.

17. Because of sparse populations and relatively low response rates in the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, these jurisdictions have been excluded from this analysis.

18. Percentages do not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

About one-quarter of women residents were in shelters for reasons other than to escape abuse such as housing problems

Almost one-quarter of women were in shelters on snapshot day in 2004 for reasons other than to escape abusive situations. Of these women, over two-thirds (68%) were unable to find affordable housing. More than one-third (38%) were experiencing a housing emergency and another 36% were experiencing some short-term housing problem, figures similar to the previous survey cycle. Finally, almost half (46%) were in shelters because of drug and alcohol addictions and about four in ten women (43%) were there due to mental health issues. Again, these figures are relatively consistent with 2002 data.

Source of referral

For the first time, the 2003/04 THS collected information from facilities to identify the source(s) of referral for each of the women residing in shelters on snapshot day. Among women in shelters on April 14, 2004, self-referral was the most likely source of referral (29% of all referrals), followed by referrals from a community agency/contact such as a hospital, doctor, government ministry, police or Aboriginal organization (17%), another transition home (16%), as well as 'other' community agencies (15%). Family and/or friends constituted 8% of all referrals. About 15% of referrals came from some other source or the source was unknown.

Children accompanying mothers

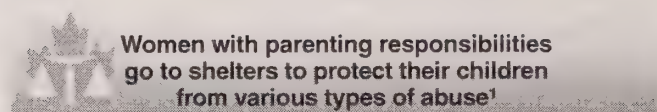
Most abused women brought their children with them to shelters on snapshot day. Nearly three-quarters of the abused women admitted to shelters on April 14, 2004 had parenting responsibilities (Table 4).¹⁹ Of these women, 71% brought their children with them to the shelter. Over two-thirds (67%) of these children were under 10 years of age. Overall, about half of all residents escaping abusive situations were children.

According to the trend data, changes in the proportions of women bringing their children with them to shelters between 1998 and 2004 have been minimal. For example, while the proportion of women with parenting responsibilities was virtually unchanged in 1998 and 2004 (77% and 75%, respectively), the proportion of these women admitted with their children was also only two percentage points lower, going from 75% on snapshot day in 1998, to 73% in 2004.

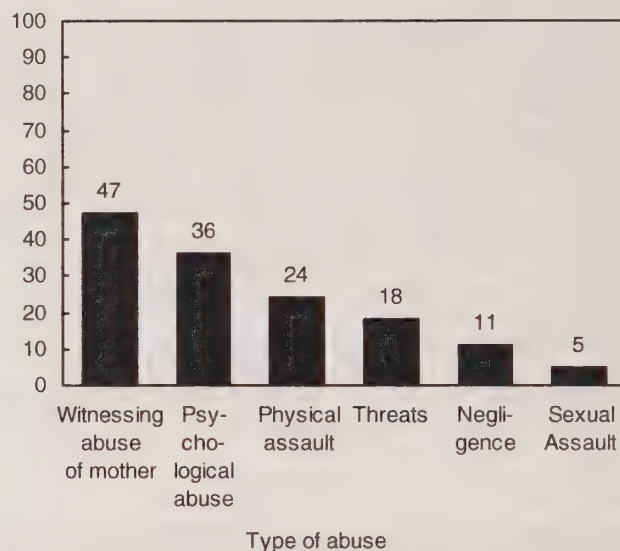
Women who brought their children with them frequently did so to protect them from various types of harm, including: witnessing the abuse of their mother (47%), psychological abuse (36%), physical abuse (24%), threats (18%), neglect (11%) and sexual abuse (5%) (Figure 1).²⁰ However, since the 2001/02 survey cycle, there were slight declines in the proportions of women indicating that they had come to the shelter to protect their children from these various forms of abuse.

The detrimental effects of domestic violence on children's emotional, cognitive and behavioural development, both in the short- and long-term, are well documented (Hotton 2003; Moss 2003). Despite the need for intervention, the proportion of facilities providing programming for children exposed to violence declined from three-quarters of shelters in 1999/00, to 68% in 2001/02, and 57% in 2003/04.

Figure 1



Percentage of women



Note: Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

1. Figures represent residents on April 14, 2004. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

There are a variety of reasons why mothers might choose not to bring their children with them to a shelter. They may fear losing their children if they bring them to a shelter due to provincial child welfare policies that require mandatory reporting of child abuse to child protection authorities. In other instances, children may be old enough to live on their own, may stay in the family home because of schooling issues, while in other cases may not be eligible to stay in some shelters, as is sometimes the case for example, of male youth over the age of 16.

A woman's decision about whether or not to bring her children with her may also be influenced by the type of facility to which she is going. On April 14, 2004, children were most likely to accompany their mothers to longer-term facilities, such as transition homes and second stage houses (facilities that are better able to address needs associated with long-term change), than to short-term, emergency-type shelters. About one-third (34%) of women with parenting responsibilities who were admitted with their children, were staying in second stage houses, compared to just 15% of women with parenting responsibilities who were not admitted with their children.

19. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

20. Percentages do not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Conversely, 31% of women with parenting responsibilities admitted without their children were residing in an emergency facility, compared to just 19% of women with parenting responsibilities who were admitted with their children. Thus, the decline in the proportion of women accompanied by their children may be explained by the concurrent increase in the proportion of women residing in emergency-type shelters.

Women aged 25 to 34 were more likely to use shelters

Research indicates that young women are more likely to fall victim to domestic violence than older women. Findings from the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey and the Homicide Survey show that women under 25 years of age had the highest rates of spousal violence and suffered the greatest risk of being killed by estranged spouses (Rodgers 1994; Pottie Bunge 2000; and Hotton 2001). Over 80% of the women in shelters for reasons of abuse on snapshot day in 2004 were between 15 and 44 years old, with the largest proportion of women falling within the 25 to 34 age category (35%) (Table 4). Accounting for their representation in the overall population, women 25 to 34 still find themselves in shelters at a higher rate than women in other age groups.

Table 4

Characteristics of abused women residing in shelters by age, parental status, disability and relationship to abuser, Canada, April 14, 2004		
	Number	%
Total women admitted due to abuse	2,496	100
Age Group		
15-24	454	18
25-34	886	35
35-44	668	27
45-54	261	10
55+	114	5
Age Unknown	113	5
Parental status		
Admitted with child(ren)	1,313	53
Admitted without child(ren) ¹	533	21
Admitted who have no child(ren)	518	21
Parental status unknown	132	5
Disabilities²		
Physical	102	4
Visual disabilities	33	1
Hearing disabilities	14	1
Other disabilities ³	24	...
Relationship between abused woman and abuser		
Spouse	706	28
Common law partner	944	38
Ex-spouse/Ex-partner	323	13
Dating/Ex-dating	122	5
Relative	156	6
Other	108	4
Relationship unknown	137	5

... not applicable

1. It is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

2. This was a multiple response item. Percentages are based on the total number of women in shelters for reasons of abuse on April 14, 2004.

3. Percentages of all women unavailable for this item due to multiple responses per respondent (i.e., one woman could have more than one 'other' disability).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

The majority of women were escaping violence from a current partner

Two-thirds of women in shelters for abuse on April 14, 2004 were there to escape the abuse of a current spouse (28%) or common law partner (38%). Another 13% of women were fleeing an abusive ex-spouse or ex-partner. Six percent of women were fleeing abuse by a relative and 5% were there to escape an abusive dating or ex-dating relationship. Another 4% were being abused by a friend, caregiver or authority figure. For 5% of women in shelters on snapshot day, the relationship to their abuser was unknown. These findings are similar to those from previous cycles of the THS.

Box 3: Shelters for abused men

The vast majority of residential services for victims of spousal violence offer services for women. However, according to the *National Directory of Services and Programs for Men Who Are or Have Been Victims of Violence 2003*, there are a few residential facilities in Canada that specifically offer services to male victims of domestic violence.²¹ These organizations provide abused men and their children with short to mid-term refuge, clothing, individual support, information and follow-up.

Maison oxygène in Montréal Quebec is the only shelter known to exclusively serve men.²² This shelter's mandate is to help men 15 years and older who are dealing with problems of spousal abuse, as well as other family difficulties (e.g., the ending of a relationship, financial problems). Its services are primarily aimed at fathers with children. The role of the organization rests on three principles: developing the men's autonomy, reinforcing their self-esteem, and offering support to the men and their children. Maison oxygène provided shelter to 27 men and 53 children, in 2003. Some of the programs and services offered by the facility include the following: Orientation, education, counselling, personal growth groups, referrals, advocacy and community workshops.

According to the 2003/04 THS, while most facilities (90%) had policies that did not allow adult males to be admitted into their facility, 4% of shelters did have policies that permitted the admission of adult men. Another 4% had no facility policy on the admittance of adult men (2% of shelters did not indicate whether or not they had such a policy). Among those shelters that admitted male adults, in total, 47 adult men were admitted to shelters for abuse between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004.²³ Of those men admitted for reasons of abuse, 42 (89%) were admitted specifically for domestic violence related abuse.

Shelters are not required to report the abuse of adults to police but are required to report the abuse of children to police and child welfare agencies. The abuse that brings a woman to a shelter may not be a criminal act. Nevertheless, 763 or nearly one in three abused women (31%) in shelters on April 14, 2004 had reported their most recent abusive situation to police. This figure is up slightly from 2001/02, when 29% of women had reported the most recent incident of abuse to police. Among incidents reported to police, charges were laid in 62% of these cases (6% of reported incidents did not result in charges being laid, and for nearly one-third of incidents reported to police, it was unknown whether or not charges were laid). A court

21. The shelters include: Centre de santé Inuulitsivik, Puvimutuk (QC); Maison oxygène, Montréal (QC) and Community Crisis Society, Strathmore (AB). The *National Directory of Services and Programs for Men Who Are or Have Been Victims of Violence* is available at the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc-cn>.

22. For more information on Maison oxygène see <http://www.cam.org/%7Ecataho/heberge.htm>.

23. Because few adult males are admitted to shelters in the THS, only information on annual admissions is collected. Thus, there is no snapshot day data for adult males.

order,²⁴ such as a peace bond or restraining order, was obtained in about half (52%) of all cases reported to police.

Compared to those residing in other types of shelters, women in second stage houses were more likely to have reported their abuse to police (36%, compared to 29% for all other shelters types), to have charges laid in their cases (68%, compared to 60% for all others) and to have had an order of protection issued (62%, compared to 48% for all others). A possible explanation for this finding might be that women in long-term facilities have been involved with their abuser for a longer period of time and thus, seek more permanent resolutions to their situations.

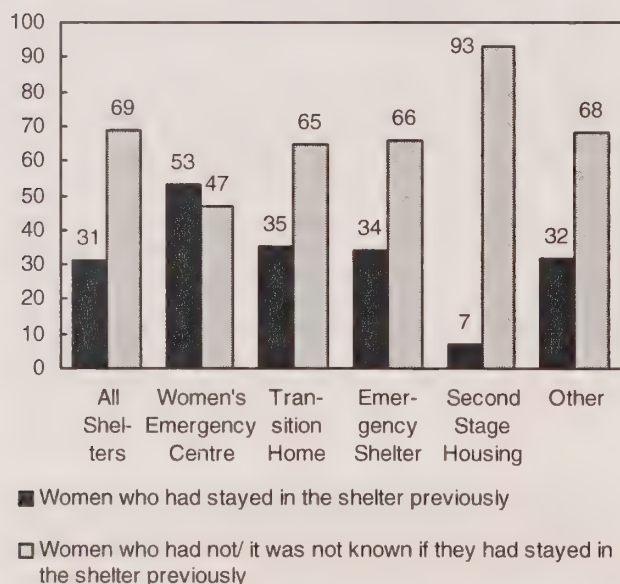
Nearly one in three women in shelters on April 14, 2004 had been there before

For many women, leaving an abusive relationship is a process rather than a one-time act. Women may return to an abusive partner only to leave once again when the violence re-occurs. Lack of housing alternatives and/or financial resources; commitment to a relationship in which they have invested a great deal; hope that the abuse will stop; guilt over separating children from their father; social pressure to be partnered and cultural or religious beliefs about the sanctity of marriage are a few of the many reasons some women might return to an abusive partner (Rodgers 1994; National Clearinghouse on Family Violence 2001; Horrill and Berman 2004).

Figure 2

One-third of all women residing in shelters on April 14, 2004 had stayed in the shelter previously

Percentage of women

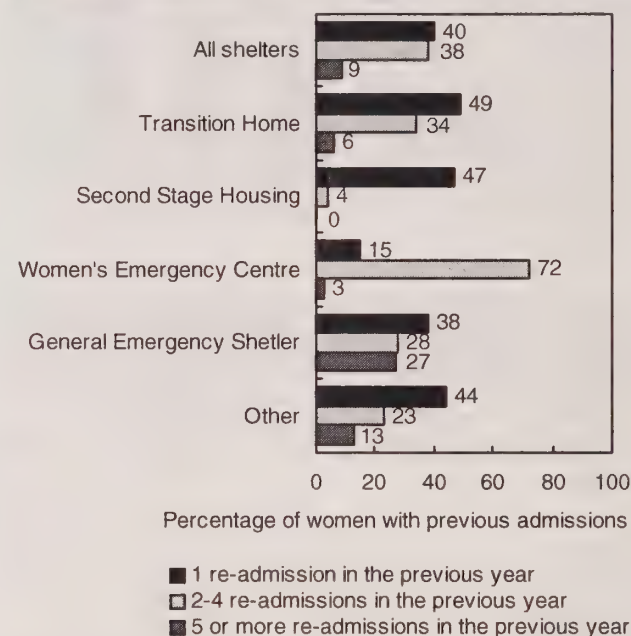


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Nearly one-third (31%) of all women in shelters on April 14, 2004 (Figure 2) had been there before, with nearly 90% of re-admissions occurring within the previous year. Among the one-third who had been admitted previously, four in ten women (40% or 403 women) had been there once before in the last year and nearly the same proportion (38% or 389) had been to the shelter two to four times before in the previous 12 months. Finally, about one in ten (9% or 94) had been to the facility five or more previous times (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Re-admissions were most likely among residents of women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

These findings on repeat clients could have implications for program development and service delivery as women who seem to be caught in a 'revolving door of abuse and refuge' may have distinctive characteristics and needs compared to those who are able to make the transition to a new life. For example, a recent study found that women who intended to return to their partners after their stay in a shelter were older, married and had more children than those who did not intend to go back (Krishnan, Hilbert, McNeil, and Newman 2004: 172). Moreover, those who planned to return home to their abusers also had higher frequencies of alcohol use, suicidal thoughts/suicide attempts and were less likely to seek out formal services (Krishnan et al. 2004: 171).

24. Court orders include a peace bond, restraining order, undertaking to keep the peace and have good conduct, conditions of probation, emergency intervention order, emergency protection order, victim's assistance order, order to abstain from persistently following a person about from place to place, etc.

Box 4: Main issues and challenges facing shelters

Shelters were asked to identify the top three issues and challenges they will be facing in the coming year. In 2003/04, shelters identified funding, staffing and affordable housing for women upon departure as the top three issues and challenges. In comparison, in 2001/02, shelters indicated that funding, affordable housing and space were the top three challenges they were confronting. It is important to note, however, that these issues and challenges represent the overall national picture, and may vary by province and territory.

Other issues included:

- Shelters at maximum occupancy rates
- Creating and implementing a follow-up program for ex-residents
- Dealing with mental health issues
- Education, exposure, and awareness in the community
- Securing adequate legal services for residents

Where women went when they left shelters

Overall, on April 14, 2004 135 women (98) and children (37) departed from shelters across Canada. Of the women who left a shelter on the 2004 snapshot day, about one in ten (11%) planned to return to their spouse or partner, a proportion similar to the previous THS cycle. The majority of women (62%) leaving shelters on that day did not intend to return home to their spouse or partner. One-fifth (21%) of women leaving on April 14, 2004 planned to go to another shelter²⁵ (up from 11% of women departing on the 2002 snapshot day). Another 18% left for new accommodations without their spouse or partner, one woman in ten (11%) went to stay with friends or relatives, and 5% returned home without their spouse or partner. These figures are comparable to those from the 2001/02 THS. Nearly one-tenth (7%) of departing women left for some other housing arrangement (down from 19% on the 2002 snapshot day). Finally, on the THS snapshot day in 2004, as in 2002, it was unknown where a quarter of women (27%) were going to reside upon leaving the shelter (Figure 4).

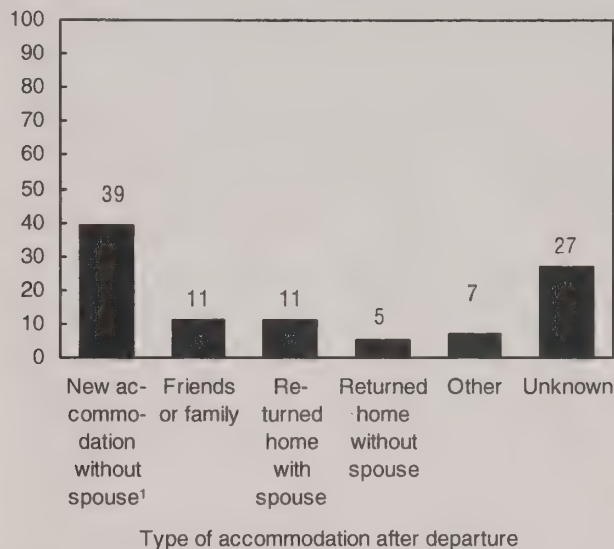
Among women leaving emergency-type shelters, the largest number were departing for another shelter

Where women went upon leaving a facility differed somewhat, depending on the type of shelter from which they were departing. On April 14, 2004, most departures were from transition homes (46%), followed by women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters (19% and 18%, respectively). About 15% of those leaving a shelter on snapshot day, left a second stage house. For the largest proportion of those leaving a transition home (40%), it was unknown where they planned to go upon their departure. Another 21% intended to find new accommodations or return home without their spouse or partner and equal proportions left to stay with friends or go to another shelter, 9% each. Almost one in ten (9%) women leaving transition homes planned to return to their spouse or common law partner. However, women leaving emergency-type shelters on April 14, 2004 were most likely departing for another shelter (44%), while less than a third (30%) planned to find new accommodations or return home without their spouse or partner and 9% went to stay with friends or family. About one woman in ten (12%) leaving an emergency-type shelter intended to return to her spouse or common law partner.

Figure 4

Many women leaving shelters on April 14, 2004 found new accommodations without their spouse or common law partner

Percentage of women



1. New accommodation without spouse includes second stage housing, another emergency shelter and other new accommodations without spouse.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

One in five facilities had to turn away persons seeking shelter on April 14, 2004

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, shelters may not be able to accommodate or accept all those who need or request their residential services. Consequently, shelters may be forced to refer people to other facilities or sources of assistance. On April 14, 2004, one-fifth of all shelters (93) referred 221 women and 112 children elsewhere.²⁶ This figure represents a slightly smaller proportion of shelters referring women and children elsewhere on snapshot day in 2002, when 24% shelters reported doing so. The most common reason given for referring women and children elsewhere was because the shelter was full, cited by 62% of shelters (a decline from previous years when 75% of shelters in 2001/02 and 71% in 1999/00 reported being unable to accommodate women and children because the shelter was full). The decrease in the percentage of shelters reporting that they were unable to accommodate women because they were full may be reflective of the growth in shelters. Finally, people were also turned away because of drug and alcohol issues (11% of shelters), mental health issues (10%), because the person was on a caution or non-admit list (5%) or for other reasons (20%).²⁷ These figures are comparable to those from the 2001/02 survey cycle.

25. This figure includes second stage housing, another emergency shelter or an out-of-province/territory shelter.

26. A person may be referred elsewhere more than once on snapshot day.

27. Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Box 5: The need for long-term and affordable housing

The need for long-term housing (especially second stage housing) and affordable permanent housing, are issues that have been identified by shelters as ongoing challenges (see Box 4). Affordable housing is often limited and waiting lists for subsidized housing can range from weeks to years. For example, a recent quality of life study of 20 Canadian communities²⁸ by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), reported that wait times for social housing in the city of Toronto are among the longest in the country, and ranged from seven to ten years in 2002. In contrast, maximum wait times were under two years for Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon (Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2004: 11). The FCM study also found that waiting lists for social housing²⁹ grew between 1991 and 2001. Restricted growth in the construction of new social housing³⁰ coupled with an inadequate supply of new rental housing units (which in turn, contributed to low vacancy rates and rising rents), contributed to a shortage of affordable rental housing. This shortage of subsidized and rental housing, in turn, resulted in longer waiting lists for affordable housing. The need for affordable housing was felt most acutely by groups such as lower income families, lone-parent families and singles (FCM 2004: 10).

The need for affordable housing has also been highlighted in provincial-level studies of shelters for women escaping abuse. For example, studies in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan generally found that women residing shelters frequently encountered difficulty finding affordable housing and as a consequence, they often stayed in shelters for extended periods of time, were on waiting lists for social housing for years, had to accept substandard housing or contemplated staying in their abusive relationships (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters 2004; Woman and Abuse Welfare Research Project 2004; Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS) of Saskatchewan 2005).

In addition, a report describing the recent trends, causes and conditions of family homelessness in ten major Canadian cities was prepared by the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and published by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).³¹ This report, *Family Homelessness: Causes and Solutions* (2003), showed that 40% of homeless families had left home because of domestic violence, which often occurred in conjunction with other precipitating events. The findings from this study, again, highlight the critical need for affordable housing among victims of domestic violence (CMHC 2003).

For more information see: Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. 2004. "Women and children escape abuse to find themselves homeless." Media Release. March 3. Available at <http://www.acws.ca>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). 2003. "Family homelessness in Canada: Causes and solutions." *Research Highlights — Socio-economic Series*. Ottawa. Available at <http://www.cmhc.ca>.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. 2004. *Quality of Life in Canadian Communities. Theme Report #1: Incomes, Shelter and Necessities*. Ottawa. Available at <http://www.fcm.ca> (accessed November 18, 2004).

Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS) of Saskatchewan. 2005. *Toward a Better Understanding of the Needs of Shelter Users: A Consultation with Shelter Residents and Workers*. Regina, Saskatchewan. Available at http://www.abusehelpines.org/past_projects.html.

Woman and Abuse Welfare Research Project. 2004. *Walking on Eggshells: Abused Women's Experiences of Ontario's Welfare System*. Available at <http://www.dawn.thot.net/abuse.html>.

Facility profile

Many shelters provide service to a broad community

Nine out of every ten shelters served an urban or suburban population, close to half (46%) provided service to a rural population and one-third (31%) served a reserve, in 2003/04 (Table 5). Among shelters providing services to rural and reserve populations, about one in ten (10% and 9%, respectively) served these types of populations exclusively.

Table 5

Areas of service by provinces and territories, 2003/04			
	Percentage of shelters serving:		
	Urban/ suburban ¹	Rural/ village ²	Reserves ³
	%		
Canada	91	46	31
Newfoundland	100	50	8
Prince Edward Island	75	100	25
Nova Scotia	84	63	47
New Brunswick	94	63	31
Quebec	91	42	18
Ontario	92	41	27
Manitoba	87	70	74
Saskatchewan	89	78	67
Alberta	95	48	50
British Columbia	88	35	30
Yukon	67	100	0
Northwest Territories	100	20	20
Nunavut	100	0	0

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.
2. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population.
3. Reserves is defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Services provided by residential facilities for victims of spousal violence

The services offered by shelters are aimed at meeting a multitude of needs. These needs may be psychological, emotional, medical, financial, physical and/or spiritual. Moreover, shelters must often deliver their services to a diverse population (see Box 6). Frequently, shelters for abused women provide an extensive range of services not only to the women and children residing within their facilities, but also to those who are former residents and/or those who have never been residents. In addition, a number of shelters offer services to abusive partners. Shelters may provide these services directly to clients (i.e., 'in-house') or they may be referred to outside agencies for services. Outreach activities are also an important component of the service delivery programs of many shelters across the country.

28. The communities include: Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Halton, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Niagara, Ottawa, Peel, Québec, Regina, Saskatoon, Sudbury, Toronto, Vancouver, Waterloo, Windsor, Winnipeg and York.
29. Wait times for subsidized housing vary according to a number of factors. Victims of family violence, for instance, are given priority in some jurisdictions.
30. These reductions in affordable housing development followed funding cuts by the federal government for social housing in 1993. British Columbia and Quebec were the only provinces to maintain a notable level of social housing development. However recently, new federal and provincial/territorial social housing initiatives have emerged in other jurisdictions (FCM 2004: 10).
31. This study consisted of a literature review, telephone interviews with 74 key agencies, and face-to-face interviews with 59 currently or formerly homeless families across 10 cities: Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Peel Region, Toronto, Montréal, Québec, Saint John and Halifax.

Box 6: Meeting the needs of a diverse population: The unique vulnerabilities and barriers of an abused woman who is an immigrant, visible minority or living in a rural community

According to the 2003 *Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation*, meeting the needs of women from diverse and rural communities who are victims of domestic violence is critical. The Federal government's *Family Violence Initiative's Year Five Report* (2002) affirms, with regard to family violence, that providing for the unique needs of specific communities within Canada's diverse population continues to be a "pressing challenge" (p. 45).

Several studies have examined the unique barriers faced by abused women who are immigrants and/or a visible minority (Roboubi and Bowles 1995; Baobaid 2002 and Smith 2004). In addition, the obstacles encountered by abused women living in rural or small communities have garnered attention from researchers, as well as policy and program developers (Lunn 2001 and Purdon 2004). Some of these challenges include:

Immigrant and visible minority women

- **Language barriers** (i.e., can limit women's ability to disclose their abuse, limit their access to information and services).
- **Immigration and the Justice System/Institutional issues** (i.e., women may fear deportation or loss of sponsorship if they seek help; they may be unfamiliar with Canadian laws and their legal rights).
- **Social and cultural issues** (i.e., women may be at greater risk of isolation; they may risk being ostracized by their family and/or ethnic community if they seek outside assistance; experiences of racism and discrimination may compound their problems).
- **Economic constraints** (i.e., women are often over-represented in low-skill, low-wage jobs; language barriers may block access to training and employment; employers may not recognize foreign credentials).

Women living in rural or small communities

- **Geographic isolation** (i.e., women in rural and remote settings may be at greater risk because they often live some distance from neighbours, family, friends and social service agencies).
- **Limited access to social services** (i.e., social services such as emergency shelters, transition homes, long-term and affordable housing, and childcare are often limited).
- **Lack of confidentiality and anonymity** (i.e., women may fear that others will find out about the abuse or that information will get back to their partner; they may have difficulty avoiding their abuser).
- **Economic constraints** (i.e., employment and training opportunities are frequently limited; jobs may be often poor-paying and/or part-time).
- **Cultural issues** (i.e., women may see seeking help as a sign of failure, since self-sufficiency has long been a characteristic of rural culture).

Sources: Baobaid, Mohammed. 2002. "Access to women abuse services by Arab-speaking Muslim women in London, Ontario. Background investigation and recommendations for further research and community outreach." Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. Available at <http://www.crvawc.ca>.

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Purdon, Colleen. 2004. "Women abuse and welfare in a rural community: Rural women speak about their experiences of Ontario Works." Available at <http://www.crvawc.ca>.

Roboubi Nahid Roboubi and Sharon Bowles. 1995. "Barriers to justice: Ethnocultural minority women and domestic violence – A preliminary discussion paper." (Unedited). Ottawa: Department of Justice, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Multicultural and Race-Relations in the Justice System. Available at <http://canada.justice.ca>.

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Nearly 9 out of 10 shelters offered advocacy services and short-term counselling to women residents

Advocacy (89%) and individual short-term counselling (87%) were the in-house services most frequently provided to women residing in shelters, followed closely by housing referral services (84%) (Table 6). Additionally, about three-quarters of facilities provided services to help residents improve their parenting skills (77%) and life skills (73%). About two-thirds of shelters offered women residents legal services (69%), financial or welfare assistance (66%), services for women with disabilities (65%), crisis telephone lines (64%), culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women³² (64%), culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women³³ (63%), lesbian sensitive services (62%), and group counselling (61%). More than one-half also provided to residents mental health services (56%). Except for group counselling services, which dropped from 65% to 61% of shelters in 2003/04, the proportion of shelters offering each of the in-house services was quite similar in 2001/02 and 2003/04, varying by only one or two percentage points.

For some shelters, cuts to welfare and other social assistance programs may result in increased demands for additional services. In one study, shelters in Ontario indicated that cuts to welfare rates meant that low-income women escaping abusive situations were often unable to afford things they needed to set up a new home. Therefore, shelters were more

often providing items such as clothing, furniture, money for utility hook-ups and toys for their children (Woman and Abuse Welfare Research Project 2004).

This type of assistance is quite common among shelters. The THS found that 79% of shelters provided clothing, 56% furniture and more than a third (34%) of shelters had food bank services for residents. A similar proportion of shelters provided these services in 2001/02.

Shelters and other social agencies often work in a co-ordinated effort to provide victims of domestic violence with the constellation of services they need. Fully three-quarters of shelters indicated that they directed women residents to other agencies for mental health services and the same proportion referred women to outside agencies for assistance with job training and employment. Many shelters also referred residents to outside agencies for addiction counselling (73%), legal services (73%), and financial assistance or welfare services (71%).

32. Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women include services that recognize traditional healing methods, services that use spiritual elders and teachers, accessibility to language interpreters and Aboriginal language materials, and recognition and understanding of Aboriginal cultural norms and beliefs.

33. Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women include accessibility to language interpreters, resource materials in various languages, and counsellors who are familiar with immigration issues and parenting styles in different cultures.

Table 6

In-house services¹ provided by shelters to women residents, non-residents and ex-residents, Canada, 2003/04

	In-house services provided by shelters to women:					
	Residents		Non-residents		Ex-residents	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Advocacy	419	89	292	62	319	67
Individual short-term counselling	413	87	303	64	313	66
Housing referral	397	84	213	45	216	46
Parenting skills	362	77	187	40	218	46
Life skills	347	73	146	31	186	39
Legal services	326	69	232	49	245	52
Financial assistance/welfare	314	66	198	42	216	46
Services for women with disabilities	307	65	177	37	178	38
Crisis telephone line	305	64	339	72	308	65
Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women	301	64	193	41	198	42
Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women	298	63	176	37	183	39
Lesbian sensitive services	292	62	188	40	182	38
Group counselling	290	61	179	38	190	40
Mental health services	266	56	180	38	179	38
Recreation services	226	48	49	10	88	19
Medical services	225	48	130	27	142	30
Addiction counselling	203	43	125	26	137	29
Specialized services for older women (55+)	162	34	91	19	95	20
Individual long-term counselling	160	34	157	33	180	38
Job training/employment search	121	26	54	11	71	15
Family counselling programs	78	16	46	10	51	11
Other ²	102	22	72	15	84	18

1. Service reported as a percentage of 473 responding facilities.

2. 'Other' may include services such as support groups, education workshops, literacy programs, services for transgender women and sexual assault counselling/programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Providing service to the children of women escaping domestic violence was also a focus of programming offered by many facilities. For example, more than three-quarters of shelters provided at least some in-house services for child residents. In 2003/04, outdoor recreation spaces (79%), indoor recreation spaces (76%), individual counselling (65%) and programs for child witnesses or victims of abuse (57%) were among the services most frequently offered to resident children.

Services to non-residents and former residents³⁴ most often included 24-hour crisis telephone lines, individual short-term counselling and advocacy

On snapshot day, 351 shelters received a total of 3,990 requests (11 per shelter, on average) for assistance from non-residents (including former residents) in the form of phone calls, emails, letters, faxes and/or in-person visits. On a monthly basis, the average number of non-resident contacts was 191 per shelter. The majority of these inquiries pertained to non-housing related issues such as requests for emotional support, accompaniment to court or general information, or someone in crisis seeking information or police assistance (as opposed to a need for accommodation because of housing problems or abuse).

Services frequently offered to non-residents of shelters included 24-hour crisis telephone lines (72%), individual short-term counselling (64%), advocacy (62%), legal services (49%) and housing referral (45%). The following services were among the most commonly offered to former residents: advocacy (67%), individual short-term counselling (66%), 24-hour crisis telephone lines (65%) and legal services (52%) (Table 6).

In 2003/04, almost 5% of shelters offered in-house treatment or counselling services to non-resident, abusive partners and more than one-in-three shelters (37%) referred partners to other agencies for counselling. These figures remained virtually unchanged from two years prior, when the THS was last conducted.

Outreach work, such as supplying individuals with information, participating in drop-in centres and meeting with women to discuss their options and providing assistance to those in need can also promote awareness of the shelter and domestic violence issues in general. In 2003/04, 473 shelters were dedicating over 19,000 hours a week to outreach activities. Per shelter, this would equal a weekly average of 41 hours, or the equivalent of about one full-time shelter worker.

34. A non-resident is someone who had never resided in the shelter but was receiving services, while a former or ex-resident is someone who had resided in the shelter in the past and was receiving follow-up services.

Since the mid-1990s, many shelters have participated in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program, thereby improving the accessibility of their facility (Code 2003). The Shelter Enhancement Program provides financial assistance for physical repairs and improvements to shelters for women, children and youth fleeing domestic violence, as well as the acquisition or construction of new shelters where needed. In 2003/04, nearly two-thirds (65%) of all reporting shelters indicated that they offered services to women residents with disabilities. Well over half of shelters were accessible to those in wheelchairs, to at least some degree. For example, nearly three-quarters (72%) of shelters had wheelchair accessible entrances, 63% had wheelchair accessible bathrooms and 59% had wheelchair accessible bedrooms. About one in five shelters offered at least some services for deaf people or hearing impaired individuals: 21% had TTY/TTD equipment, 19% offered sign language or interpretation services and 10% provided some other service. A smaller proportion of shelters offered services to blind or visually impaired people: 17% had large print reading materials available, 4% had reading materials available in Braille and 9% provided some other service.

Finally, many shelter staff and/or volunteers provide services in a range of languages, in addition to English (96%) and French (63%). Spanish (26%), Cree (17%), German (16%), Polish (13%) and Punjabi (13%) were among the more commonly spoken languages amongst shelter staff (Table 7).

Table 7

Languages in which shelters, provided services, Canada, 2003/04 ¹		
	Number	Percentage
English	452	96
French	296	63
Spanish	124	26
Cree	81	17
German	74	16
Polish	60	13
Punjabi	60	13
Italian	48	10
Ojibway	47	10
Ukrainian	45	10
Chinese	44	9
Arabic	41	9
Portuguese	39	8
Dutch	38	8
Tagalog	33	7
Greek	25	5
Vietnamese	24	5
Inuktitut	19	4
Other	103	22

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

Most shelters permitted male youth accompanying their mothers, but had age restrictions

Since many women in shelters are fleeing the abuse of a male partner, being in a shelter with male youth (i.e., aged 14 and

over) may prove difficult for some residents. Therefore, some shelters place restrictions on the admission of male youth who might accompany their mothers to the shelter. Age, physical size and behaviour are examples of admittance criteria that shelters might use.

Almost all shelters (94%) allowed the admission of male youths, however, of these shelters, more than three-quarters (76%) placed an age limit on the admittance of male youth. Whether it was a predetermined age limit or one determined on a case-by-case basis, in general, age limits ranged from 12 to 19 years of age. Age limits between 16 and 18 were the most common. Among shelters with an age limit for male youth, one-third set the age limit at 16 years of age and nearly a quarter (23%) had an age limit of 17 years.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of reporting shelters indicated that they refer male youth elsewhere. Of the 295 shelters that refer male youth elsewhere, most referrals were to family or friends (81%), followed by social services (65%) and youth shelters (39%). Youth centres, family service centres and other organizations were each mentioned by about one-fifth of shelters.

Aboriginal victims of domestic violence and shelters located on reserves

Aboriginal women are at greater risk of experiencing domestic violence than non-Aboriginal women

National victimization surveys have found that Aboriginal women are at greater risk of experiencing domestic violence than are non-Aboriginal women. Findings from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization indicated that one-quarter of Aboriginal women experienced assault by a current or ex-partner in the five years prior to the survey, a rate that was three times greater than the rate for non-Aboriginal women (8%). While not a statistically significant difference, the spousal assault rate for Aboriginal men (about 13%), was nearly double that of non-Aboriginal men (7%) (Trainor and Mihorean 2001).³⁵

Statistics on spousal violence compiled by Aboriginal organizations (e.g., Ontario Native Women's Association; Native Women's Association, Nova Scotia; Indian and Inuit Nurses of Canada) on a local or regional basis tend to suggest even higher rates of spousal violence among Aboriginal individuals than those reported on the 1999 GSS. Some studies have found that the proportion of Aboriginal women who have experienced spousal violence to be as high as 80% or 90% in some communities (Lane, Jr., Bopp and Bopp 2003: 27).

Among spousal abuse victims, Aboriginal victims experienced more severe forms of violence, according to the 1999 GSS. Nearly half (48%) of Aboriginal victims reported being beaten,

35. Caution should be taken when considering these findings as data from the Northwest Territories, The Yukon Territory and Nunavut, (areas where high concentrations of Aboriginal people reside), were not included in the 1999 GSS. In the 1999 GSS, Aboriginal people represented 2% of the population aged 15 and over in the 10 provinces, a similar proportion to that of the 1996 Census. Also, as the identity of the perpetrators is unknown, assumptions about the cultural identity of perpetrators should not be made.

choked, threatened with a knife or gun or sexually assaulted by a current or ex-partner, compared to less than a third (31%) of non-Aboriginal spousal violence victims. Furthermore, Aboriginal people suffer disproportionately from spousal homicide, the most extreme form of domestic violence. According to the Homicide Survey, the spousal homicide rate from 1991 to 1999 was more than eight times higher for Aboriginal women compared to non-Aboriginal women (47.2 per million couples vs. 5.8 per million couples) (Trainor and Mihorean 2001).³⁶

Transition Home Survey findings indicate that while 31% of all shelters served reserves, 7% were actually located on reserves

Of all responding shelters, 148 or 31% indicated that they served reserve populations in 2003/04, including 26 (5%) that were operated by a band council and 24 (5%) that were owned by a band council. Culturally sensitive services such as programs that recognize Aboriginal culture and norms as well as traditional healing methods, the use of spiritual elders and teachers, and access to resource materials in Aboriginal languages were offered to Aboriginal women by two-thirds (64%) of all shelters and were available to Aboriginal children in nearly half of these shelters (48%). Cree was spoken in 17% of shelters, Ojibway in 10% and Inuktitut in 4%.

While 148 facilities indicated that they provided services to reserve populations, there were just 31 shelters (7% of all shelters) surveyed that were actually located on reserves in 2003/04 (Table 8). The majority of these on-reserve facilities were transition homes (42%), over one-third were emergency-type shelters (women emergency centres and general emergency shelters) and 16% were second stage houses. The remaining shelters were Family Resource Centres. Compared to shelters off reserves, a larger proportion of emergency-type shelters were found on reserves, 19% off-reserve versus 35% on-reserve.

On reserves, a larger proportion of annual admissions were to emergency shelters, compared to off-reserve shelters

In 2003/04, annual admissions to shelters located on reserves represented 4% all admissions. Specifically, there were admissions of 1,847 women and 1,672 dependent children to on-reserve shelters between April 31, 2003 and March 31,

36. The Statistics Canada Homicide Survey has collected police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons since 1961. It should be noted that prior to 1997, if a force did not collect data on race and ethnicity, the survey question on Aboriginal status was routinely left blank. Therefore, homicides for Aboriginal victims may have been undercounted prior to 1997.

Box 7: Some of the circumstances unique to Aboriginal victims of domestic violence

According to the 1996 report of the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*, domestic violence in Aboriginal communities is characterized by three distinctive features, when compared to mainstream society. These include the following:

1. The importance of community

Among many Aboriginal communities, domestic violence does not affect just the individual or certain households or families but the community as a whole (and in many instances is an intergenerational problem). In their report *Aboriginal Domestic Violence in Canada* (2003) for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation Research Series, Lane, Jr. et al., note the following:

...there are important profound cultural differences that distinguish Aboriginal family life from life in (many) non-Aboriginal families in Canada, ... [with] the most significant of these characteristics [being] the tendency of relatives within an extended family to think and behave much more like an inter-related system, than as separate and disconnected parts (p. 47).

Therefore, as a result of this interconnectivity, domestic violence is more likely to affect many more people in an Aboriginal family than that of a non-Aboriginal family. Further, it is argued that domestic violence has become institutionalized in many Aboriginal communities, whereby it is so prevalent that it is accepted as a 'normal' part of life. Lane, Jr. et al. (2003) refer to this normalization or infusion of violence into community life as the development of a "culture of violence" (p. 49).

Domestic violence in Aboriginal communities is also uniquely defined by the power structures within these communities. For instance, typically, only a small number of individuals hold power within an Aboriginal community. How the community responds to domestic violence may thus, depend on the families involved and their respective positions within the community. If an abuser has ties to those with authority in the community, his or her abusive behaviour may be tolerated (Lane, Jr. et al. 2003: 53). Similarly, the community response to domestic violence as a social ill and the priority granted to this problem will hinge on the attitudes and support given by the community's leadership (Lane, Jr. et al. 2003: 56).

The physical location of a many Aboriginal communities has an impact on responses to domestic violence (see Box 3). A number of Aboriginal communities are located in areas that are geographically or socially isolated from neighbouring communities. As such, abuse victims' access to programs and services, transportation, communication, money and other resources may be limited. While these concerns are encountered by a number of non-Aboriginal victims of domestic violence, they are issues which are faced by a greater proportion of Aboriginal victims.

2. The impact of history

It has been reported that the devastating effects of colonization and the destructive impact of residential schools and other state interventions designed to force assimilation have eroded Aboriginal communities, families, culture and identity (Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1996 and Lane, Jr. et al. 2003). According to the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (1996), "...the failure in family functioning can be traced in many cases to interventions of the state deliberately introduced to disrupt or displace the Aboriginal family" (p.57). Lane, Jr. et al. (2003) also state that the effects of the colonial experiences of Aboriginal people are still felt today and "continue to impair the healthy functioning of many families" (p. 65). Moreover, both victims and abusers share this legacy. Therefore, "...from an historic stand point it is difficult to separate the victims and the abusers because of the profound history of abuse of Aboriginal people" (Ursel 2001: 3).

3. Marginalization and racism

The 1996 report by the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* notes that "...violence within Aboriginal communities is fostered and sustained by a racist social environment" (p. 57). Further, Lane Jr. et al. (2003), find that "there is considerable consensus that the marginalization of Aboriginal people in Canadian society has put them at greatly increased risk of high rates of family violence and abuse" (p. 69). As a group, Aboriginal people suffer disproportionately from extreme poverty, low levels of education, high rates of unemployment, substance abuse and family breakdown. They have also been the targets of racist attitudes and discrimination (Lane, Jr. et al. 2003). Such marginalization and racism demean and devalue Aboriginal men and women and affect their interactions with mainstream Canadian society, its institutions and with one another (Lane, Jr. et al. 2003).

Table 8

Number of shelters located on reserves, by provinces and territories, 2003/04

Number

Canada	31
Newfoundland and Labrador	0
Prince Edward Island	0
Nova Scotia	2
New Brunswick	0
Quebec	2
Ontario	12
Manitoba	2
Saskatchewan	1
Alberta	6
British Columbia	0
Yukon	0
Northwest Territories	0
Nunavut	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2003/04.

2004. Annual admissions were up from 3,262 women and children admitted to 31 on-reserve shelters in 2001/02. More than a third (34%) of 2003/04 admissions were to transition homes but nearly as many (30%) were to general emergency shelters and another 26% were to women's emergency centres. Overall, annual admissions to emergency-type facilities constituted more than half of all admissions to shelters on reserves. In comparison, over half (52%) of all annual admissions among off-reserve shelters were to transition homes and 39% were to the emergency-type facilities.

On April 14, 2004, there were 173 women and children in shelters on reserves (159 were in shelters on April 15, 2002). These women represented nearly 3% of Canadian women in shelters on snapshot day. Over three-quarters (78%) of these women and children in shelters on reserves were fleeing abuse — 61 women and 74 children. Three in ten women in on-reserve shelters on snapshot day had been there in the past, as had a similar proportion of women in off-reserve shelters. Most women (71%), with parenting responsibilities brought their children with them to the shelter. This figure is similar to the proportion of women admitted with their children to off-reserve shelters. Similar to the children accompanying their mothers to off-reserve shelters, two-thirds of children admitted to on-reserve shelters were under the age of 10 years.

On snapshot day, 70% of the abused women in shelters on reserves were under the age of 35 and nearly one-quarter (23%) were under 25 years of age. Women in off-reserve shelters were comparatively older with just 53% under the age of 35 years and 18% less than 25 years of age. However, this age difference between these groups of residents may be attributed to the fact that the female Aboriginal population, in general, is younger than the non-Aboriginal population. According to the 2001 Census, almost half (48%) of the

Aboriginal female population were aged 15 to 34 years, in comparison, less than one-third (32%) of the non-Aboriginal population of females aged 15 and over fell into this age category.

According to the 2003/04 Transition Home Survey, four in ten abused women in on-reserve shelters had reported their most recent abusive incident to police; charges were laid in 62% of these cases and protection orders issued in over half (52%). In comparison, just three women in ten in off-reserve shelters had reported their abuse to police, making women in shelters on reserves more likely to have reported to police. Women in off-reserve shelters had charges laid and orders of protection issued in the same proportions as women in on-reserve shelters. Research suggests that many Aboriginal persons are reluctant to report incidents to police due to feelings of mistrust and/or discrimination by police and the justice system (Lane, Jr. et al. 2003). In this light, the fact that a larger proportion of women in shelters on reserves reported their abuse to police, relative to women in off-reserve shelters, may indicate violence of a greater severity or smaller communities where police were more apt to find out about the violence.

Data sources

Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clients being served on a specific day. In 1991/92, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. A more comprehensive survey was developed and administered in 1992/93 and was repeated, with some changes, in 1994/95, 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02 and 2003/04.

The Transition Home Survey is a mail-out/mail-back census survey of all residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Shelters that may serve a broader population, in addition to women escaping domestic violence, such as those providing residential services to male victims of spousal abuse, and men and women seeking refuge for reasons other than abuse, are included. Facilities that *exclusively* serve male victims of spousal abuse fall outside the scope of this survey. At the time of this survey, one such facility was known to be in operation. Of the 543 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 473 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 87%. Separate questionnaires were completed for facilities that had two or more residences under the same name or address. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one questionnaire. In such cases, the determination of shelter type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities.

The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization

The General Social Survey is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS focuses on various regular topics (including time use, social support, the family, technology and victimization). In 1999, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for a third time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988 and in 1993. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the prevalence of eight offence types (based on the Criminal Code definitions for these crimes) in the population, to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims' willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

The GSS is a telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years or more in the ten provinces. In 1999, a total of approximately 26,000 people were interviewed with a response rate of 81%.

An overview of the findings from the 2004 GSS will be released in the Summer of 2005. Further results from the 2004 GSS will be available and presented in the annual publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*, also to be released in the Summer of 2005.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2)

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The aggregate UCR Survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. The UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

Police reported incident-based crime statistics are collected through the UCR2 Survey. This survey allows detailed examination of accused, victim, and incident characteristics. Collection of these micro data began in 1988. In 2002, there were 123 police agencies in 9 provinces reporting to the UCR2. Data on spousal violence came from the UCR2 Research database, a non-representative subset of the UCR2 database, accounting for 56% of the national volume of crime in 2002. The UCR2 Research database includes 94 police agencies in 9 provinces. The incidents contained in the 2002 Research database were distributed as follows: 39% from Ontario, 30% from Quebec, 12% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland and Labrador.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data that permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of incidents, accused and victims, such as the victim-accused relationship. This database currently includes 78 police services that have reported to the UCR2 Survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2002.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961 and began collecting data on family related homicides in 1974. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred. In 1991 and 1997, the survey was revised and expanded to include additional variables, such as previous conviction histories of the accused and victim, employment of the accused and victim, victim's use of force at the time of the incident, and Shaken Baby Syndrome as a cause of death.

The Homicide Survey also contains a narrative section, where investigating officers insert additional details on the homicide that are not included in the questionnaire portion of the survey. These additional details include such information as the presence/absence of a restraining order and the attempted suicide of the accused. However, generalizations cannot be made to all homicides, since the availability of this supplementary information varies between homicide reports.

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Youth Court Statistics, 2003/04

by Jennifer Thomas¹

Highlights

- In 2003/04, youth courts in Canada processed 70,465 cases, involving 191,302 charges. This represents a 17% decline in the overall youth court caseload from 2002/03, and a 33% drop from the 1991/92 caseload.
- The overall youth court caseload has been declining gradually since 1991/92, primarily due to the steady decline in the number of *Crimes against property* cases. However, the most recent decline follows the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in April 2003, and represents the largest single annual decrease during this period. The number of charges laid by police against youth also fell in 2003.
- Five offences accounted for just over half of the total youth court caseload in 2003/04. These were theft (13%), failure to comply with a disposition under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act* (11%), common assault (11%), break and enter (9%) and possession of stolen property (7%).
- Over half (55%) of the cases before youth courts involved older youth, aged 16 and 17 years. Youth aged 15 years were involved in 20% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 accounted for about one quarter of cases.
- Six out of ten (61%) youth court cases were concluded within 4 months. Less than 10% of cases lasted longer than a year.
- Fifty-seven percent of cases heard in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt in 2003/04. Cases involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences had the highest proportion of convictions (69%), while *Other Criminal Code* offence cases (e.g., weapons, disturbing the peace) recorded the lowest proportion (50%).
- Probation continues to be the most frequently ordered sentence for youth, with 63% of convicted youth court cases receiving a sentence of probation in 2003/04. However, this proportion represents a 7 percentage point decrease from 2002/03.
- In 2003/04, the mean length for probation sentences was about one year (381 days). Custodial sentences tended to be much shorter, with a mean sentence length of 67 days.
- Youth court cases are becoming more complex and lengthier. In 2003/04, multiple charge cases represented 56% of the total youth caseload, up from the previous high of 52% in 2001/02. In comparison, in 1991/92 multiple charge cases represented 42% of youth court cases. Both single and multiple charge cases took longer to process in 2003/04, averaging 134 days and 146 days, respectively. This compares to 105 days for single charge cases and 122 days for multiple charge cases in 2002/03.

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Introduction

The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), proclaimed in 1984, introduced rights for adolescents previously guaranteed only to adults. It recognized the special needs that youth have as a result of their varying levels of maturity, the necessity for youth to accept responsibility for unlawful action, and the right of society to protection from illegal behaviour. Seventeen years later, new legislation was introduced to reform Canada's youth justice system and provide clearer legislative direction on youth crime. Having received Royal Assent in February, 2002, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) replaced the *Young Offenders Act* on April 1, 2003.²

Under the YOA, Canada had one of the highest youth incarceration rates of the Western countries. It was also higher than the adult incarceration rate in Canada. The YCJA promotes the use of alternatives to custody that show youth the impact that their crime has on victims and the community, while instilling a sense of responsibility and accountability for their actions. The primary objectives of the new legislation are preventing crime "by addressing the circumstances underlying a young person's offending behaviour", rehabilitating young persons who commit criminal offences, and ensuring that they are subject to meaningful consequences in promotion of the long-term protection of the public.³

This *Juristat* presents data obtained from the Youth Court Survey (YCS), which is conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth courts. The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence, who appear in court accused of offences under federal statutes including the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), the YCJA, the YOA, and all other federal statute offences. All youth courts in Canada have reported to the YCS since fiscal year 1991/92.

This *Juristat* presents data for cases completed in youth court under the legislative authority of the YCJA as well as some YOA cases.⁴ (see Text Box 6). As not all youth crime is reported to police and not all youth in conflict with the law proceed to court, the YCS focuses on the court process and the response to youth crime rather than the prevalence of youth criminal activity.⁵ Therefore, these data should not be used as an indicator of youth criminal activity.

Cases heard in youth court

Youth courts in Canada processed 70,465 cases involving 191,302 charges in 2003/04. The large majority of cases (82%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most

2. For further information on the YCJA, consult Justice Canada's "YCJA Explained" website at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/yj/>.

3. S. 3, YCJA.

4. Those charges which were laid and for which proceedings commenced under the YOA prior to the enactment of the YCJA, and not disposed in court as at April 1, 2003, fall under the legislative authority of the YOA. In this report, however, these charges have been reported together with YCJA offences.

5. For further information about charges laid by the police, see M. Wallace, Crime Statistics, 2003.

Text box 1:

Note to readers – Impact of the YCJA on the Youth Court Survey

The changes in the administration of youth justice brought about by the April 2003 implementation of the YCJA also created the need for new information collection. Modifications to provincial and territorial court information systems were needed to accommodate the new court activities, procedures and case outcomes such as the new sentencing options introduced by the new legislation.

Survey data elements related to the YCJA have been implemented within a set of new national data requirements (NDR) which were developed for the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS). The ICCS integrates the survey specifications for the Youth Court Survey and the Adult Criminal Court Survey, and will be collected at the court activity level for all federal statute charges against accused persons, beginning with the collection of data for 2004/05.

Important note concerning sentencing data in this report: Since the new YCJA sentencing options were not part of the 2003/04 data extraction programs used by the Youth Court Survey (YCS), the new sentences have been reported in the 'Other' sentence type category.⁶ Consequently, sentencing data in this report are limited to existing sentencing categories used by the YCS. Also, analysis by most serious sentence for a case is not possible and comparisons with historical sentencing data have not and should not be made.

In the past, youth custodial sentences were presented in terms of the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced (i.e., open or secure). Although the YCJA provides for various levels of custody⁷, it does not specify these levels. Accordingly, the majority of the provinces and territories no longer maintain this level of detail; hence, custodial sentences in this report have been presented as simply 'Custody'.

The new YCJA sentencing options will be presented as separate categories in future reports, as provinces and territories make the transition from the YCS to the new ICCS. Analysis of the most serious sentence in a case and historical sentencing analysis will also resume for provinces and territories upon the provision of data in ICCS format. It is expected that nine provinces and territories⁸ will have completed automated data extraction programs allowing for the provision of ICCS data for the 2004/05 edition of the *Youth Court Statistics Juristat*.

6. See Text Box 6 for a list and description of the new sentences introduced by the YCJA.
7. Subsection 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that provinces and territories must provide at least two levels of custody for young persons distinguished by the degree of restraint of the young persons in them.
8. YCJA sentencing data will be available for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.

Text box 2:

Youth and Youth Crime in Context

- Population - 2003⁹
 - Total Canadian population was 31.6 million with 2.5 million youth aged 12 to 17 years (8% of total)
- Persons charged by police in 2003¹⁰
 - 548,217 adults and youths were charged with federal offences (excluding traffic).
 - 95,185 (17%) of these were youth.
- Cases processed in youth court, 2003/04
 - 70,465 cases were heard in youth courts in 2003/04.
 - This represents a decrease of 17% from 2002/03, and 33% from 1991/92.
- Convictions in youth court, 2003/04
 - 40,184 cases (57%) resulted in a conviction in 2003/04.

9. Postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2003, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada

10. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2003, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

serious offence in the case.¹¹ The types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved *Crimes against property* (36%) and *Crimes against the person* (29%) (**Table 1**). Less frequent were cases involving offences under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)/Young Offenders Act (YOA)* (11%), offences against the *Administration of Justice* (10%), *Drug-related offences* (6%), *Other Criminal Code offences* (6%), *Criminal Code Traffic* (2%), and *Other federal statute offences* (1%).

Ten offences accounted for three-quarters of the total caseload

A small number of offences accounted for a large proportion of the caseload (**Figure 1**). Together, the ten most frequent offences represented three-quarters (77%) of the caseload.

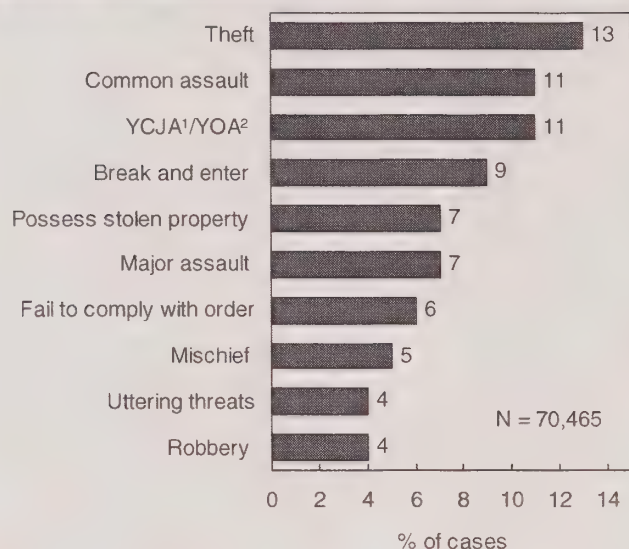
Three of the most frequent offences were in the *Crimes against property* category: theft accounted for 13% of the total caseload, while break and enter accounted for 9% and possession of stolen property for 7%. Other frequent types of

cases before youth courts involved common assault¹² (11%), failure to comply with a disposition under the YCJA/YOA (11%), major assault (7%), failure to comply with an order (6%), mischief (5%), uttering threats (4%) and robbery (4%).

11. For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section for more details.
12. There are three levels of assault in the Criminal Code: Assault Level 1, s.266, Assault Level II, s.267, Assault Level III, s.268. Common assault (Assault Level I) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the Criminal Code. A common assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Common assault includes pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face verbal threats. Major assault includes the higher levels of assault in the Criminal Code: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II), aggravated assault (Assault Level III), and other assaults (e.g. unlawfully causing bodily harm, s.269, assaulting a police officer, s.270).

Figure 1

Ten offences accounted for three-quarters of the youth court caseload in 2003/04



Note: YCJA/YOA offences are primarily the failure to comply with a disposition.

1. Youth Criminal Justice Act.

2. Young Offenders Act.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Common assaults most frequent crime against the person

In 2003/04, common assault cases accounted for 39% of all *Crimes against the person* cases in youth courts, followed by major assault (23%), uttering threats (14%), robbery (12%) and sexual assault (5%). Homicide (which includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide) and attempted murder together accounted for a very small proportion of *Crimes against the person* cases heard in youth courts (less than 1%). There were 42 cases of homicide and 54 cases of attempted murder disposed of in 2003/04 in which a young person was the accused.

Demographic characteristics of youths appearing in court

Over half of youth court cases involved 16- and 17-year olds

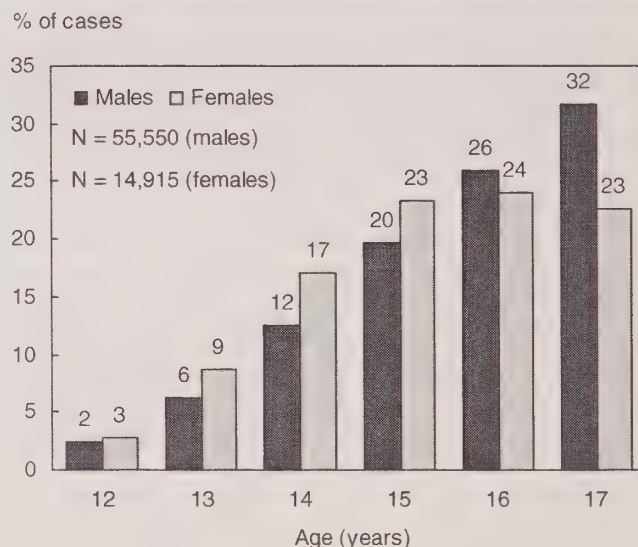
Sixteen- and 17-year-olds appear more often in youth court than younger accused.¹³ In 2003/04, 16-year-olds accounted for 26% of cases and 17-year-olds made up 30%. Cases involving drug offences implicated a high proportion of older youth, with 16- and 17-year-olds comprising 70% of *Drug-related* offence cases in 2003/04. Accused persons aged 15 years appeared in 20% of all cases, while those aged 12, 13, and 14 years showed proportionally less involvement, accounting for 3%, 7% and 13% of cases, respectively (**Table 2**).

Males accounted for eight in ten cases

Males accounted for 79% of youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups. While the proportion of cases against males increased with age, cases involving female youth increase until age 15 years and remain fairly constant for 16 and 17 year olds. Males aged 17 years accounted for 32% of all male cases (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2

Proportion of youth court caseload increased with age for males but levels off for females after age 15 years, 2003/04



Note: Excludes 1,050 cases (1.5%) where the accused was older than 17 years or the age was unknown.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Case processing

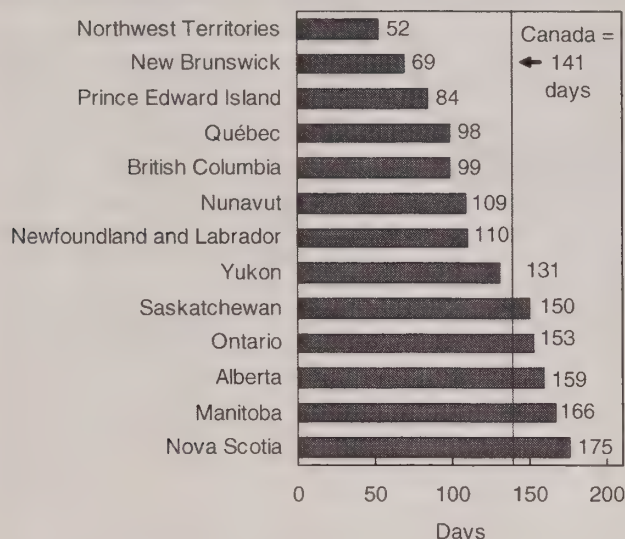
Elapsed time to process a case

In 2003/04, about six out of every ten cases (61%) were processed in four months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), with 7% of cases taking longer than a year. In fact, 13% of cases were completed at the first court appearance. The mean elapsed time from first to last court appearance for all cases was 141 days. Nova Scotia had the longest mean elapsed time at 175 days, followed by Manitoba (166 days), Alberta (159 days), Ontario (153 days) and Saskatchewan (150 days). Northwest Territories had the shortest mean elapsed time (52 days) (**Figure 3**).

13. Age represents the offender's age in years on the day the offence was alleged to have been committed.

Figure 3

Mean elapsed time for case processing from first to last court appearance in youth courts, 2003/04



Note: The mean represents the average value of all the data in the set. Caution should be used in making comparisons between the provinces and territories, as many factors can affect the elapsed time of a case. For instance, the use of pre-charge screening, the number of trial versus non-trial cases, complexity of cases, the seriousness of offences being prosecuted, issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process, lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients, and accused failing to appear in courts may have an impact on the average elapsed time of cases.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In 2003/04, 44% of cases involved only one charge, 24% had two charges, 11% had three charges and 21% had more than three charges. Multiple charge cases took an average of 146 days to complete, compared to 134 days for single charge cases.

Crimes against the person cases tended to take longer to complete, with a mean completion time of 167 days. The shortest completion times were for cases where the most serious offence was against the *Administration of Justice*, with a mean completion time of 98 days.

Overview of case outcomes

Six out of ten cases result in conviction

Cases resulting in a conviction (with a finding or plea of guilt) accounted for 57% of cases disposed in youth court in 2003/04 (Table 3).¹⁵ Twenty-nine percent of cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Proceedings were stayed in 12% of cases, and 1% resulted in an acquittal (Figure 4).

Text box 3:

Mean, median and mode

Mean, median and mode are measures of central tendency. The mean is an average value of all the data in the set. The median represents the midpoint of a sorted dataset, where exactly half the dataset are above and half are below the midpoint. The mode is the most frequently observed value in the dataset. There may be no mode if no value appears more than any other. On the other hand, there may be two or more modes (e.g., bimodal, trimodal or multimodal).¹⁴

The median may be influenced by data sets that are not normally distributed, such as sentencing data which typically cluster around a number of specific time intervals or dollar amounts. For example, custody sentences are often imposed for periods of weeks or months (e.g., 15 days, 30 days, 45 days, 180 days, etc.). The movement of the median value from one cluster (i.e., one multimodal value) to another may suggest a large increase or decrease in sentencing trends when other measures of central tendency indicate a more subtle change. In addition, the trend line of median values may indicate stability when the change in sentencing patterns are too small to cause the movement of the median value from one sentencing cluster to another. The mean is less affected by the clustering of observations in a data set. However, the mean can be affected by the presence of extreme values.

Because the mean and median are subject to different influences, both the mean and median values have been presented in sentence length tables at the end of this *Juristat* to provide a more complete picture of sentencing in youth courts.

Text box 4:

Transfers to adult court – no longer an option under the YCJA

Revisions to the YOA in 1995 allowed for a presumed transfer to adult court for the most serious violent crime cases, unless the accused could prove that the case should be heard by a youth court. This provision applied to murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault, with a minimum age requirement of fourteen years.

Transfers to adult court are no longer an option under the YCJA. The most serious offences are eligible for adult sentencing under the new legislation, but the sanctions are imposed by a Youth Court judge (see Text Box 6).

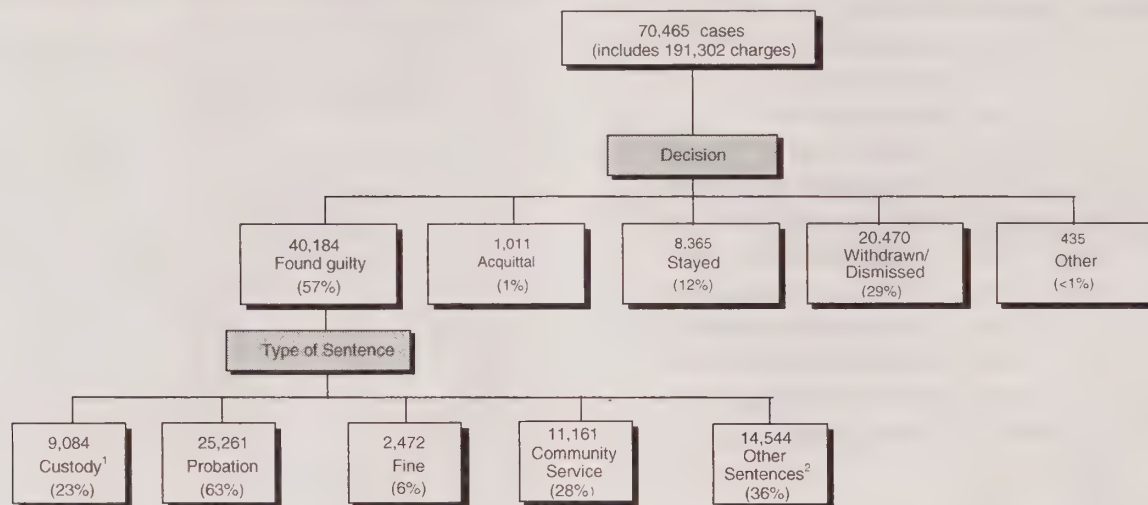
In 2003/04, there were only 8 cases transferred to adult court in Canada. These all represent cases where proceedings had commenced under the legislative authority of the YOA.

14. For further details, see Statistics Canada, 2003. "Measures of central tendency." About Statistics: Power from Data! www.statcan.ca.

15. Cases found guilty includes cases that have been discharged absolutely or on conditions following the finding of guilt.

Figure 4

Youth court processing of federal statute cases, 2003/04



Notes: Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges

Other decisions include transfers to another jurisdiction, cases where the accused was found to be unfit to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, and transfer to adult court (for only those cases where proceedings commenced under the legislative authority of the YOA).

The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

1. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.
2. Other sentences include reprimand, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs, deferred custody and supervision, attendance at non-residential program, intensive support and supervision, and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

The proportion of guilty cases varies considerably from one jurisdiction to another

The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from 36% in Yukon to 73% in New Brunswick (Table 3). Conviction rates in all other jurisdictions ranged between 47% and 68%. There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates.¹⁶ First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs to a greater extent which may reduce the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Second, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country. Cases that are stayed or withdrawn are often indicative of charges set aside pending completion of extrajudicial/alternative measures or diversion programs, or the systematic use of these decisions for administrative purposes. For example, more than one-half of cases were stayed, withdrawn or dismissed in Saskatchewan and Yukon, compared with 22% in New Brunswick and 25% in Québec. Third, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in New Brunswick, Québec, and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges.

Text box 5: Decisions in Youth Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Found guilty** includes guilty (convicted) of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, of an attempt of an included offence, or a plea of guilt. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been granted.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the youth court.
- **Stay** involves a stay of proceedings, where a charge or charges are suspended, and the Crown may recommence court proceedings at a later date, within one year.
- **Withdrawn or dismissed** refer to cases where all charges were withdrawn by the Crown (prior to the entering of a plea by the accused) or dismissed by the court. These decisions all refer to the court stopping or interrupting criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Other decisions** include cases that were transferred to adult court (under the YOA), transferred to another jurisdiction, the accused was found to be unfit to stand trial, or not criminally responsible due to mental disorder.

16. The conviction rate is the proportion of total cases with a finding of guilt.

The proportion of guilty verdicts also varied among offence categories.¹⁷ Cases involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences had the highest proportion of convictions (69%), while *Other Criminal Code* offence cases (e.g., weapons, prostitution and disturbing the peace) recorded the lowest proportion (50%).

Sentencing in youth court

The *YCJA* provides legislative direction to judges in sentencing youth who have been convicted of a criminal offence, by including statements of purpose, principles and factors with which judges must comply when imposing youth sentences. In sentencing a youth under the *YCJA*, a judge must consider a sentence that holds the youth accountable, ensure meaningful consequences for him or her and promote his or her rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The sentence must be "proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person for that offence".¹⁸ All reasonable alternatives to custody must be considered before a judge may impose a custodial sentence. For the most part, custody is to be saved for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders.

Many of the alternatives to custody that a judge may consider, in accordance with the purpose and principles of sentencing, existed under the *YOA*, however, several new sentences were introduced in the *YCJA* (see Text Box 6).

In the analysis of sentencing data, this report presents findings in terms of all sentences that convicted youth receive for the most serious offence in the case, that is, accounting for multiple sentences ordered for the same charge (referred to as 'type of sentence' within this document).¹⁹ Since data specific to each of the new sentencing options introduced by the *YCJA* were not available, they have been included in the "Other" category. As a result, analysis by the most serious sentence²⁰ in a case cannot be presented.

17. For cases with two or more guilty charges, see "Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge" in the methodology section for more information on how the representative charge for the case is selected.
18. Subsections 38(1), (2), *YCJA*.
19. As mentioned in the Text Box 1, specific *YCJA* sentencing data will be available for nine provinces/territories for the 2004/05 edition of the Youth Court Statistics Juristat.
20. In previous editions of this Juristat, analysis based on the most serious sentence in a case was also presented in order to provide contextual information in certain areas. Due to the fact that specific *YCJA* sentencing detail (e.g., reprimands, deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision) are not discernable from the YCS data collection format (i.e., they are included in the 'Other' category), the most serious sentence cannot be ascertained. The 2004/05 edition of this Juristat will provide these details.

Text box 6:

Principal Sentencing Options in youth courts

The main types of sanctions that can be imposed by a youth court are presented under subsection 42(2), paragraphs (a) through (r) of the *YCJA*. Though many of the sanctions have been carried over from the *YOA*, the *YCJA* introduced a number of new or modified sanctions:

• Non-custodial sanctions

Reprimand: A new sentencing option under the *YCJA*, a reprimand is the least punitive of all youth sentences, essentially involving a stern lecture from the judge. A reprimand may be most suitable in minor cases where exposure to the police and the court system alone may be deemed sufficient to hold the youth accountable for their offence. Reprimands do not result in a criminal record.

Fine: When a fine is imposed, the young person is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. The maximum amount that a youth can be fined is \$1,000.

Community service: A community service order requires the youth to perform unpaid work for the community. The maximum length of a community service order is 240 hours with a maximum term of completion of 12 months.

Probation: A young person sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all youth on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school. The maximum length for a probation order is two years.

Intensive support and supervision order: A new sentencing option, an intensive support and supervision order was introduced in the *YCJA* as an alternative to custody. Similar to probation, an intensive support and supervision order is served in the community under conditions, but

provides closer monitoring and support than a probation order to assist the young person in changing his or her behaviour.²¹ This is an 'opt-in' sanction under the *YCJA*, meaning that provinces and territories may choose not to implement this option, taking into consideration available resources.

Order to attend a non-residential program: As another possible alternative to custody introduced by the *YCJA*, the youth court may order the young person to attend a non-residential program at fixed times and terms. The attendance order is also an 'opt-in' sanction for the provinces and territories.²²

Other sanctions: In addition, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options including compensation for damages, restitution, compensation of an innocent purchaser, personal service, prohibition, seizure or forfeiture, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge.

• Custodial sentences

Although custody is still a sentencing option, there are several criteria which must be met before a judge can sentence a youth to custody. Section 39 of the *YCJA* prohibits a custodial sentence unless at least one of certain threshold criteria is met. Specifically, a youth justice court shall not commit a young person to custody unless the young person: (i) has committed a violent offence; (ii) has failed to comply with non-custodial sentences; (iii) has committed an indictable offence for which an adult would be liable to imprisonment for more than two years and has a history of convictions under the *YCJA* or *YOA*; or (iv) in exceptional cases, has committed an indictable offence and the aggravating circumstances are such that the imposition of a non-custodial sentence would be inconsistent with the purpose and principles of sentencing of the *YCJA*.²³

21. Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/vj/>), "YCJA Explained".

22. Justice Canada website, (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/vj/>), "YCJA Explained".

23. Subsection 39(1), *YCJA*.

Text box 6 - continued

Even if one of the above conditions are met, the youth justice court shall not sentence the young person to custody unless the court has considered all reasonable alternatives to custody and determined that no alternatives are available that are in keeping with the purpose and principles of sentencing.²⁴

Deferred custody and supervision order: Another new sentence under the *YCJA*, a deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody to serve the sentence in the community under a number of conditions. Similar to the conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults, violation of conditions may result in the young person being sent to custody.

Custody and supervision: All cases sentenced to custody under the *YCJA* have a supervision component.²⁵ For most offences, the supervision period can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the *YCJA*. However, if the youth is convicted of manslaughter, attempted murder, or aggravated sexual assault, or is given an intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order, the length of the custody period and supervision period is up to the discretion of the youth court, as long as the two periods combined is not greater than the maximum sentence length. The maximum lengths of custody and supervision orders for first and second degree murder remain unchanged from the *YOA*, however the *YCJA* specifies guidelines governing the maximum length of the sentence to be served in custody. If convicted of first degree murder, the youth's sentence cannot exceed 10 years, where the committal to custody must not exceed 6 years from the date of committal, followed by a period of conditional supervision²⁶ served in the community. For second degree murder, the total sentence cannot exceed 7 years, with the committal to custody not exceeding 4 years from the date of committal.

Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Order: The *YCJA* introduced this type of sentence to provide treatment for serious violent young offenders suffering from mental or psychological disorders. The court must also determine that an individualized treatment plan has been developed for the young person.

Sentence review: The length of sentence ordered by the court may be subject to revision under conditions stipulated in the *YCJA*. The court must review all custodial sentences after one year. Optional reviews may be granted for custodial sentences where the amount of time to be served is less than one year, or in special circumstances²⁷ for sentences greater than one year, but before the anniversary date. Following a hearing and review, the judge, considering the needs of the young person and the interests of society, may "confirm the youth sentence, release the youth on conditional supervision, or convert a intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order to an straightforward custody and supervision order or to an order under the ordinary regime".²⁸

Reviews for non-custodial sentences are not automatic. Rather, anytime after six months following the date of the sentence (or earlier if leave is granted by a youth court judge), the youth, his or her parents, the Crown or the provincial director may apply for a review of the sentence. Following the review hearing, the youth justice court may confirm the sentence, terminate the sentence, vary the sentence, or impose a new non-custodial sentence.

Adult sentencing: The *YCJA* does not provide for transfers of youths to adult court. However, youth courts may impose an adult sentence on a young offender in the exceptional case when the youth sentence for a given offence would not hold the youth accountable for his or her criminal conduct. Under the current provisions of the *YCJA*, an adult sentence can only be considered if the offence committed carries a maximum sentence of more than two years in adult court and the youth was 14 years or older when the offence was committed. The provinces and territories have the option of raising the minimum age to 16 years, so the second criteria may vary. For youth who are charged with murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder, and aggravated sexual assault and for youth who have committed a violent offence and have been found guilty on at least two other occasions of serious violent offences, the presumption is that adult sentencing will apply, and the burden is on the convicted youth to show a youth sentence would be more appropriate. For all other cases, the presumption is that youth sentencing will apply.²⁹

24. Subsection 39(2), *YCJA*

25. Under the *YOA*, custody and supervision was only used in sentences for first and second degree murder.

26. Conditional supervision orders represent the community based portion of a custody and supervision order for convicted presumptive offences. Under a conditional supervision order the young offender must keep the peace, appear in youth court as required, report to the provincial director immediately upon release from custody, inform the provincial director if questioned or charged by police, report to police as required, report any address changes, comply with the instructions of the provincial director, and is prohibited from possessing any weapons.

27. S. 94 of the *YCJA* sets out the circumstances under which an optional review may be granted.

28. Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/yj/>), "YCJA Explained".

29. Despite these provisions for 'presumption', the Quebec Court of Appeal has held that the presumption provisions of the *YCJA* are invalid. Therefore, rather than relying on presumption, many jurisdictions are giving notice when seeking an adult sentence for a youth accused of committing an offence. Amendments to this effect are pending.

Probation very likely for violent offences

Convicted cases can have more than one sentence and when accounting for multiple sentences, probation was ordered in 63% of all convicted cases in 2003/04, far more than any other type of sentence (**Table 4**). Community service was the second most frequently ordered sentence (28% of convicted cases). Custody and supervision orders³⁰ were imposed in 23% of convicted cases. Other sanctions (such as deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, attendance at non-residential program, compensation, restitution, conditional or absolute discharges, and reprimands) were ordered in a little more than one-third (36%) of guilty cases.³¹

Probation was ordered most frequently for convicted youth cases involving *Crimes against the person* (75%) followed by *Crimes against property* (67%) and *Other Criminal Code* offences such as weapons and disturbing the peace (62%) (**Table 4**). A smaller proportion of convicted cases involving *Criminal Code* Traffic offences (42%) and offences against the *Administration of Justice* (43%) resulted in a probation sentence.

30. Refers to both community or conditional supervision following a term of custody for youth.

31. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

Probation was frequently ordered in convicted youth cases involving other sexual offences (88%), sexual assault (86%), criminal harassment (80%), robbery (79%) and major assault (78%).

Convicted youth cases involving drug trafficking and break and enter also frequently resulted in a sentence of probation, with 81% and 79% of these convicted cases receiving such a sentence, respectively.

Although probation is still the most frequently ordered sentence in convicted youth court cases (63%), this proportion dropped from 2002/03 when it was ordered in 70% of convicted cases. This may be in part due to the fact that under the YOA, youth custody sentences were often followed by a period of probation to ensure some form of supervision on reintegration into the community. Under the YCJA however, all youth custody sentences have a mandatory period of supervision on release built into the sentence (See Text Box 6). Additionally, a portion of cases that would have received probation under the YOA may have received some sort of extrajudicial measure.

Most probation terms are 12 months or less

As with the YOA, youth courts may sentence a young offender to probation for a maximum of two years under the YCJA. In 2003/04, the mean sentence length for probation sentences was about one year (381 days). Sixteen percent of cases with a probation sentence were for a period of 6 months or less, 58% ranged from greater than 6 months to 12 months, and 26% were for more than 12 months.

Custodial sentences most prevalent for youth convicted of being unlawfully at large

Youth court cases in which the youth was convicted of being unlawfully at large were most likely to receive a sentence to custody and supervision, with 79% of these convicted cases receiving such a sentence.

Custody is also frequently ordered for serious violent convictions under *Crimes against the person* (Table 4). For example, in 2003/04, 11 of the 19 (or 58% of) convicted homicide cases resulted in a sentence of custody. Although this proportion may seem low, persons accused of homicide are more likely to have been remanded to custody prior to the decision of the court and sentencing. An unknown proportion of convicted homicide cases may have received a custody sentence of 'time served'. Convicted cases involving robbery also frequently received a custodial sentence (45%).

The use of custody varies across Canada

The use of custody and supervision ranged from 14% of cases with convictions in Alberta to 28% in Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Yukon (Table 5). This variation in the use of custody may reflect the influence of several factors. For example, the severity of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, rates of recidivism can be different, and the availability of custodial facilities can vary.

Half of custodial sentences are less than one month

In 2003/04, 49% of cases resulting in custody and supervision were for terms of less than one month.³² Twenty-nine percent were for terms of 1 to 3 months, 16% were for greater than 3 months and up to a 6 month term, and 6% were for terms longer than 6 months.³³ The mean sentence length was 67 days.

Fines and other types of sentences are used most frequently for traffic offences

Fines and 'other' sentences were imposed most often in case convictions involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences, with 49% of these cases receiving a fine, and 76% receiving some type of sentence other than custody, probation, fine or community service. Within this category, impaired driving cases had the highest proportion of fines imposed (71%). The mean fine amount for all *Criminal Code Traffic* offences was \$462.

Trends

Total number of cases heard in youth court down significantly from 1991/92

In 2003/04, total cases processed in youth court decreased by 33% from the number of cases in 1991/92 (Table 6). Between 1991/92 and 2002/03, the decline was primarily due to the steady decline in the number of *Crimes against property* cases.³⁴

The 2003/04 youth court caseload was 17% lower than that of 2002/03, the single largest annual decline since 1991/92. This drop appears to be directly related to the introduction of the YCJA and reflects a similar drop in youth charged by the police. While *Crimes against property* cases continued to drop (-21%), all other categories of offences dropped significantly as well. For instance, there was 23% fewer *Other Federal Statute* cases in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03, and 13% fewer *Administration of Justice* cases.

Notably, although *Crimes against the person* cases are still higher than the low of 17,917 cases in 1991/92, 2003/04 marks the largest annual decline in this category of offences (-9%), after an upward trend during the 1990s (Figure 5).

32. In this report, the sentence length referred to represents only the custodial portion of the custody and supervision order.

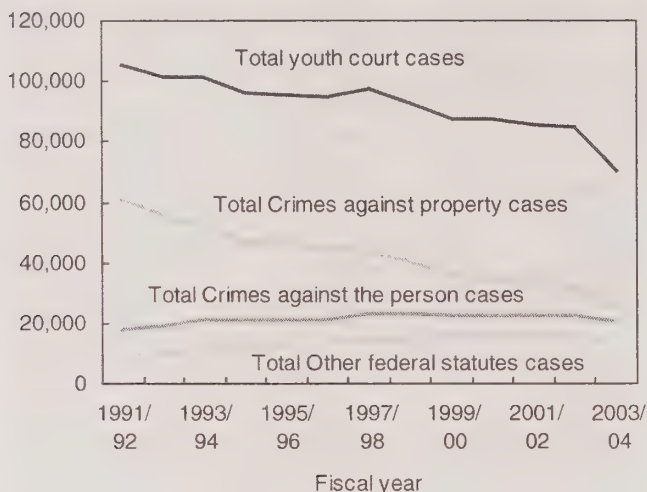
33. The YCS cannot distinguish between consecutive and concurrent sentences and does not include sentencing revisions made under review by the court. In multiple sentence cases, for example, the sentence length may be underestimated because of the assumption of concurrent sentences for all charges and may not reflect actual time ordered.

34. This section highlights youth court trends over the thirteen year period from 1991/92 (the first year for which national data are available for the YCS), to the current year, 2003/04.

Figure 5

Large decline in youth court caseload in 2003/04

Number of cases



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 7:

Rate of youth charged by police decreased significantly

Youth court caseloads reflect police charging practices. That is, the composition and distribution of offences heard and completed in youth court are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge extrajudicial/alternative measures programs and pre-court diversion programs, some young persons are diverted away from further exposure in the criminal justice system. The YCJA encourages the use of extrajudicial measures whereby they "should be used if they are adequate to hold a young person accountable for his or her offending behaviour and, if the use of extrajudicial measures is consistent with the principles set out in³⁵ paragraphs 4 (a) to (d) of the Act.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)³⁶ reported a 30% increase in the rate of youths "cleared otherwise"³⁷, which includes extrajudicial measures such as taking no further action, informal police warnings and formal police cautions, referrals to community programs or extrajudicial sanctions programs.

In 2003, the rate of youth aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences (per 100,000) dropped 15% from 2002. Similarly, in 2003/04, the youth court case rate (per 10,000) declined 17% from 2002/03.

35. Paragraph 4(d), YCJA.

36. The UCR Survey collects crime and traffic statistics reported by police agencies in Canada. For further information on the issue of 'cleared otherwise' statistics, see M. Wallace, *Crime Statistics*, 2003.

37. This term refers to people who have not been formally charged by police, though there is sufficient evidence for the police to do so. This could occur for a number of reasons: the police used extrajudicial measures, the police may have used discretion and decided not to lay a charge, the complainant did not want police to lay a charge or the accused was involved in other incidents in which one or more charges were laid (M. Wallace, *Crime Statistics*, 2003).

Comparisons among the provinces and territories

Differences across the country in the reporting of criminal incidents to police, in procedures and eligibility requirements for police diversion and extrajudicial measures programs, and differences in provincial policy directing Crown discretion will influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts. Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Québec and British Columbia. Processes such as these serve to keep less serious cases out of the court system and reduce court workload. These factors should be considered when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons.

The national rate of youth court cases shows a decline from 464 cases per 10,000 youth in 1991/92 to 278 in 2003/04 (Table 7). Generally steady declines over the past five years were found in the Yukon (-54%), British Columbia (-39%), Nova Scotia (-29%), New Brunswick (-27%), Alberta (-27%) and Manitoba (-26%). In most other jurisdictions, however, the rate tended to fluctuate. However, in 2002/03 and 2003/04, the rate dropped in all jurisdictions except Nunavut. Further, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut, the youth court case rates were lower in 2003/04 for all jurisdictions than in 1999/00. Québec had the lowest rate of youth appearing in court (147 per 10,000 youth) in 2003/04.

Youth court cases are becoming increasingly more complex

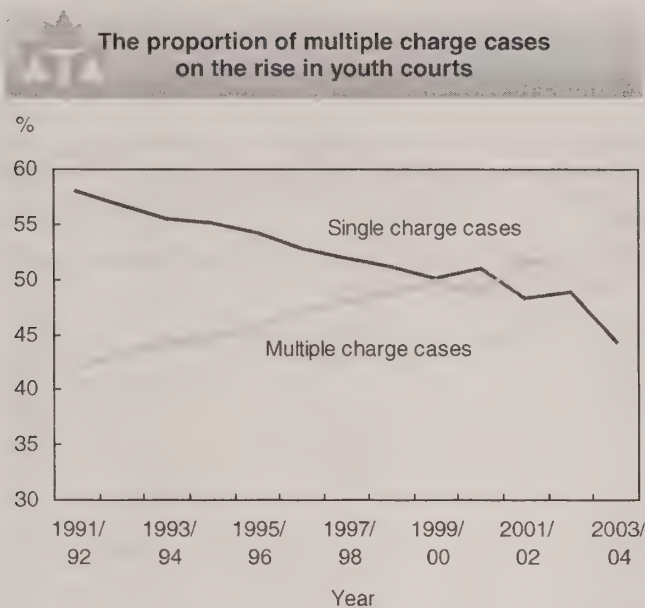
In 1991/92, youth court cases with more than one charge represented 42% of the total caseload. However, the proportion of youth court cases with multiple charges gradually increased throughout the 1990s and continued into the next decade (Figure 6). In 2001/02, these more complex cases represented more than half (52%) of the cases disposed of in youth courts for the first time during the period. This proportion increased further in 2003/04, with multiple charge cases representing 56% of the total youth court caseload.

The trend of lengthier youth court cases continued in 2003/04. However, the increase in the mean elapsed time was the largest over the 1991/92 to 2003/04 period. In 2003/04, it took an average of 141 days to dispose of a youth court case, compared to 114 days in 2002/03 and 99 days in 1991/92.

Both single charge cases and multiple charge cases took longer to process in 2003/04, averaging 134 days and 146 days respectively. This compares to 105 days for single charge cases and 122 days for multiple charge cases in 2002/03, and 96 days and 103 days in 1991/92.

More complex and lengthier cases may be the result of diverting less serious cases away from the court process. Less serious cases may be dealt with by the police in the form of extrajudicial measures such as police warnings or cautions and referrals to community programs. Additionally, further vetting of charges by the Crown may result in less serious charges being handled in some manner other than proceeding to Court (e.g., Crown caution or extrajudicial sanction).

Figure 6



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Proportion of cases found guilty down slightly

Fifty-seven percent of youth court cases were found guilty in 2003/04, three percentage points lower than 2002/03 and 1991/92 (60%), and 7 percentage points lower than the high of 64% in 1998/99.

In each of the last five years, the proportion of convicted cases has decreased. Much of the decrease comes from *Crimes against property*, where convictions have fallen each year from 64% in 1999/00 to 57% in 2003/04. For example, the conviction rates for other property crimes, mischief and break and enter have declined by 12, 9 and 8 percentage points respectively. Despite the large decrease in *Crimes against property* in recent years, the largest decrease in conviction rates between 2002/03 and 2003/04 was in the rate of youth convicted of *Crimes against the person* (-5 percentage points), the first decrease in this category since 1999/00.

Methodology

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other Federal Statute* offences heard and completed in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. Every effort is made by survey respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) to ensure complete survey coverage.

Primary unit of analysis

The primary unit of analysis is the case, defined as one or more charges against a young person disposed of on the same day. The YCS adopted the Adult Criminal Court Survey definition of

Figure 7



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

a case during the 2001/02 reference year, in an effort to make the two surveys more consistent. Previously, case counts for the YCS were based on those charges against a young person that had the same day of first appearance.

This change has produced case counts that are slightly lower than those previously released in *Juristats* prior to the 2001/02 reference period and other YCS reports. However, trend data presented in this *Juristat* are based on the new definition to ensure data comparability.

Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge

Since a case is characterized by a single charge, in cases with more than one charge it is necessary to determine the charge that will represent the case. In multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court (under the YOA); guilty; other decision (e.g. not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings; charge withdrawn; or transfer to other jurisdiction; and not guilty or charged dismissed. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges have equal results according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., custody, probation, and fine) is considered. If the representative charge for the case still cannot be determined, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing comparability of youth court statistics among jurisdictions

The reader is advised that the use of the decisions 'stay' and 'withdrawn' for administrative purposes (e.g., to reduce charges or to correct details on an information) varies by jurisdiction. To terminate and recommence a case for administrative purposes has been found to inflate the total number of cases reported to the YCS. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon are most affected by this practice. Consequently the reader is encouraged, where possible, to analyze cases with guilty findings to increase comparability among the jurisdictions.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the YCJA and the YOA were implemented. Pre-court screening procedures may affect the number of youth appearing in court. The Crown Attorney, for example, may decide not to proceed with a charge, or the initial charge may be changed. A youth may also be diverted from the court process into an extrajudicial/alternative measures program (either before or after police lay charges), a police or Crown diversion program.

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Youth Court Survey, 2003/04, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Youth Criminal Justice Act (Statute of Canada).

Table 1

Youth court charges and cases, Canada, 2003/04

Offence group	Charges		Cases	
	#	%	#	%
Total offences	191,302	100.0	70,465	100.0
Crimes against the person	35,443	18.5	20,416	29.0
Homicide	52	0.0	42	0.1
Attempted murder	113	0.1	54	0.1
Robbery	4,256	2.2	2,500	3.5
Sexual assault	2,131	1.1	1,095	1.6
Other sexual offences	1,209	0.6	535	0.8
Major assault	7,880	4.1	4,744	6.7
Common assault	12,860	6.7	8,010	11.4
Uttering threats	5,469	2.9	2,821	4.0
Criminal harassment	514	0.3	205	0.3
Other crimes against persons	959	0.5	410	0.6
Crimes against property	67,536	35.3	25,663	36.4
Theft	22,521	11.8	9,172	13.0
Break and enter	14,145	7.4	6,632	9.4
Fraud	3,675	1.9	1,176	1.7
Mischief	12,463	6.5	3,258	4.6
Possess stolen property	13,651	7.1	4,915	7.0
Other property crimes	1,081	0.6	510	0.7
Administration of justice	28,345	14.8	6,784	9.6
Fail to appear	3,150	1.6	963	1.4
Breach of probation	770	0.4	190	0.3
Unlawfully at large	1,487	0.8	921	1.3
Fail to comply with order	21,655	11.3	4,239	6.0
Other admin. justice	1,283	0.7	471	0.7
Other Criminal Code	15,121	7.9	3,896	5.5
Weapons	5,323	2.8	1,402	2.0
Prostitution	68	0.0	29	0.0
Disturbing the peace	832	0.4	275	0.4
Residual Criminal Code	8,898	4.7	2,190	3.1
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	146,445	76.6	56,759	80.5
Criminal Code traffic	3,333	1.7	1,121	1.6
Impaired driving	1,528	0.8	585	0.8
Other Criminal Code traffic	1,805	0.9	536	0.8
Total Criminal Code	149,778	78.3	57,880	82.1
Other federal statute total	41,524	21.7	12,585	17.9
Drug possession	4,430	2.3	2,413	3.4
Drug trafficking	2,542	1.3	1,518	2.2
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	31,173	16.3	7,692	10.9
Residual federal statutes	3,379	1.8	962	1.4

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Cases heard in youth court by offence category and age of accused, Canada, 2003/04

Offence category	Total cases	Age of accused													
		12		13		14		15		16		17		Other ¹	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences	70,465	1,788	2.5	4,740	6.7	9,484	13.5	14,369	20.4	18,047	25.6	20,987	29.8	1,050	1.5
Crimes against the person	20,416	878	4.3	1,869	9.2	3,214	15.7	4,292	21.0	4,740	23.2	5,186	25.4	237	1.2
Crimes against property	25,663	693	2.7	1,823	7.1	3,696	14.4	5,434	21.2	6,583	25.7	7,239	28.2	195	0.8
Administration of justice	6,784	80	1.2	352	5.2	769	11.3	1,385	20.4	1,873	27.6	2,147	31.6	178	2.6
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	3,896	70	1.8	189	4.9	443	11.4	703	18.0	1,140	29.3	1,304	33.5	47	1.2
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	1,121	1	0.1	11	1.0	48	4.3	83	7.4	295	26.3	675	60.2	8	0.7
Drug offences	3,931	34	0.9	128	3.3	340	8.6	653	16.6	1,128	28.7	1,610	41.0	38	1.0
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act</i>	7,692	28	0.4	326	4.2	860	11.2	1,645	21.4	2,028	26.4	2,486	32.3	319	4.1
Other federal statutes	962	4	0.4	42	4.4	114	11.9	174	18.1	260	27.0	340	35.3	28	2.9

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age of accused is at the time of offence.

1. Other age group includes cases where the accused was older than 17 at the time of the offence (i.e., YCJA sections 136 to 139 and YOA sections 26, 50) or the age was unknown.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Cases before youth courts by type of decision, provinces and territories, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Total cases	Decision									
		Found guilty ¹		Acquittal		Stayed		Withdrawn/ Dismissed		Other ²	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	70,465	40,184	57.0	1,011	1.4	8,365	11.9	20,470	29.1	435	0.6
Newfoundland and Labrador ³	1,380	872	63.2	0	0.0	61	4.4	441	32.0	6	0.4
Prince Edward Island	215	123	57.2	2	0.9	63	29.3	27	12.6	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	1,991	986	49.5	67	3.4	0	0.0	933	46.9	5	0.3
New Brunswick	1,434	1,046	72.9	32	2.2	5	0.3	304	21.2	47	3.3
Quebec	8,171	5,554	68.0	538	6.6	808	9.9	1,251	15.3	20	0.2
Ontario	30,768	16,662	54.2	99	0.3	2,701	8.8	11,293	36.7	13	0.0
Manitoba	3,867	2,170	56.1	25	0.6	1,660	42.9	3	0.1	9	0.2
Saskatchewan	6,573	3,074	46.8	24	0.4	1,077	16.4	2,380	36.2	18	0.3
Alberta	9,542	5,688	59.6	102	1.1	179	1.9	3,516	36.8	57	0.6
British Columbia	5,856	3,653	62.4	122	2.1	1,709	29.2	121	2.1	251	4.3
Yukon	127	46	36.2	0	0.0	25	19.7	47	37.0	9	7.1
Northwest Territories	260	165	63.5	0	0.0	21	8.1	74	28.5	0	0.0
Nunavut ⁴	281	145	51.6	0	0.0	56	19.9	80	28.5	0	0.0

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

1. Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

2. Other decisions include transferred to adult court (only for cases where proceedings commenced under the YOA), transferred to another province/territory, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

3. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably.

4. Total case counts may be underreported for Nunavut, as there may be charge and case information from remote areas that is entered into their caseload management system several months after sending their data submission for the Youth Court Survey.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Youth court cases with convictions by type of sentence, Canada, 2003/04

Most serious offence	Total convicted cases	Type of sentence for most serious offence									
		Custody ¹		Probation		Fine		Community service		Other ²	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences	40,184	9,084	22.6	25,261	62.9	2,472	6.2	11,161	27.8	14,544	36.2
Crimes against the person	11,685	2,774	23.7	8,806	75.4	203	1.7	2,782	23.8	4,902	42.0
Homicide	19	11	57.9	3	15.8	0	0.0	1	5.3	10	52.6
Attempted murder	11	4	36.4	8	72.7	0	0.0	4	36.4	5	45.5
Robbery	1,362	615	45.2	1,071	78.6	10	0.7	350	25.7	814	59.8
Sexual assault	558	119	21.3	481	86.2	2	0.4	81	14.5	217	38.9
Other sexual offences	275	46	16.7	241	87.6	2	0.7	34	12.4	119	43.3
Major assault	2,662	732	27.5	2,076	78.0	57	2.1	710	26.7	1,248	46.9
Common assault	5,022	841	16.7	3,594	71.6	110	2.2	1,230	24.5	1,866	37.2
Uttering threats	1,500	335	22.3	1,120	74.7	19	1.3	294	19.6	493	32.9
Criminal harassment	110	22	20.0	88	80.0	0	0.0	25	22.7	48	43.6
Other crimes against persons	166	49	29.5	124	74.7	3	1.8	53	31.9	82	49.4
Crimes against property	14,540	2,834	19.5	9,788	67.3	641	4.4	4,707	32.4	5,202	35.8
Theft	5,234	865	16.5	3,191	61.0	346	6.6	1,673	32.0	1,901	36.3
Break and enter	4,312	1,087	25.2	3,385	78.5	52	1.2	1,499	34.8	1,433	33.2
Fraud	719	120	16.7	506	70.4	42	5.8	214	29.8	304	42.3
Mischief	1,635	105	6.4	969	59.3	92	5.6	571	34.9	798	48.8
Possess stolen property	2,410	625	25.9	1,565	64.9	100	4.1	671	27.8	684	28.4
Other property crimes	230	32	13.9	172	74.8	9	3.9	79	34.3	82	35.7
Administration of justice	3,734	1,383	37.0	1,590	42.6	269	7.2	670	17.9	891	23.9
Fail to appear	434	115	26.5	155	35.7	52	12.0	71	16.4	120	27.6
Breach of probation	83	19	22.9	44	53.0	12	14.5	13	15.7	15	18.1
Unlawfully at large	783	621	79.3	147	18.8	11	1.4	55	7.0	100	12.8
Fail to comply with order	2,123	539	25.4	1,048	49.4	183	8.6	455	21.4	592	27.9
Other admin. justice	311	89	28.6	196	63.0	11	3.5	76	24.4	64	20.6
Other Criminal Code	1,956	378	19.3	1,221	62.4	104	5.3	497	25.4	820	41.9
Weapons	696	131	18.8	454	65.2	24	3.4	167	24.0	397	57.0
Prostitution	11	4	36.4	8	72.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	36.4
Disturbing the peace	140	7	5.0	70	50.0	23	16.4	25	17.9	52	37.1
Residual Criminal Code	1,109	236	21.3	689	62.1	57	5.1	305	27.5	367	33.1
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	31,915	7,369	23.1	21,405	67.1	1,217	3.8	8,656	27.1	11,815	37.0
Criminal Code traffic	772	64	8.3	322	41.7	381	49.4	168	21.8	585	75.8
Impaired driving	434	3	0.7	111	25.6	310	71.4	70	16.1	402	92.6
Other Criminal Code traffic	338	61	18.0	211	62.4	71	21.0	98	29.0	183	54.1
Total Criminal Code	32,687	7,433	22.7	21,727	66.5	1,598	4.9	8,824	27.0	12,400	37.9
Other federal statute total	7,497	1,651	22.0	3,534	47.1	874	11.7	2,337	31.2	2,144	28.6
Drug possession	767	32	4.2	343	44.7	131	17.1	266	34.7	395	51.5
Drug trafficking	894	114	12.8	726	81.2	47	5.3	397	44.4	563	63.0
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/</i>											
<i>Young Offenders Act</i>	5,191	1,411	27.2	2,369	45.6	533	10.3	1,503	29.0	967	18.6
Other federal statutes	645	94	14.6	96	14.9	163	25.3	171	26.5	219	34.0

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

1. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.
2. Other sentences include reprimand, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs, deferred custody and supervision, attendance at non-residential program, intensive support and supervision, and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Sentences in youth courts, provinces and territories, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Total convicted cases	Type of sentence									
		Custody ¹		Probation		Fine		Community service		Other ²	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	40,184	9,084	22.6	25,261	62.9	2,472	6.2	11,161	27.8	14,544	36.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	872	192	22.0	596	68.3	37	4.2	271	31.1	297	34.1
Prince Edward Island	123	26	21.1	90	73.2	19	15.4	0	0.0	41	33.3
Nova Scotia	986	154	15.6	750	76.1	54	5.5	256	26.0	192	19.5
New Brunswick	1,046	263	25.1	545	52.1	43	4.1	11	1.1	243	23.2
Quebec	5,554	914	16.5	3,847	69.3	255	4.6	2,802	50.5	2,442	44.0
Ontario	16,662	4,715	28.3	12,373	74.3	545	3.3	4,109	24.7	5,175	31.1
Manitoba	2,170	356	16.4	1,189	54.8	189	8.7	526	24.2	1,436	66.2
Saskatchewan	3,074	854	27.8	1,490	48.5	118	3.8	844	27.5	731	23.8
Alberta	5,688	792	13.9	2,358	41.5	1,005	17.7	1,275	22.4	2,483	43.7
British Columbia	3,653	738	20.2	1,770	48.5	192	5.3	893	24.4	1,289	35.3
Yukon	46	13	28.3	23	50.0	0	0.0	9	19.6	21	45.7
Northwest Territories	165	33	20.0	114	69.1	14	8.5	82	49.7	54	32.7
Nunavut	145	34	23.4	116	80.0	1	0.7	83	57.2	140	96.6

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

1. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.
2. Other sentences include reprimand, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counselling programs, deferred custody and supervision, attendance at non-residential program, intensive support and supervision, and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Cases heard in youth courts, Canada, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Offence category		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Percent change from 1999/00 to 2003/04	Percent change from 1991/92 to 2003/04
Total cases	number	87,600	87,617	85,640	84,592	70,465		
	% change in the number of cases*	-5.7	0.0	-2.3	-1.2	-16.7	-19.6	-33.2
Crimes against the person	number	22,432	22,674	22,510	22,462	20,416		
	% change in the number of cases*	-3.3	1.1	-0.7	-0.2	-9.1	-9.0	13.9
Crimes against property	number	35,518	34,694	33,086	32,465	25,663		
	% change in the number of cases*	-11.5	-2.3	-4.6	-1.9	-21.0	-27.7	-58.0
Administration of justice	number	7,551	7,917	7,698	7,790	6,784		
	% change in the number of cases*	-7.4	4.8	-2.8	1.2	-12.9	-10.2	-16.1
Other Criminal Code offences	number	4,566	4,506	4,525	4,267	3,896		
	% change in the number of cases*	-4.7	-1.3	0.4	-5.7	-8.7	-14.7	-41.0
Criminal Code traffic	number	1,238	1,166	1,211	1,225	1,121		
	% change in the number of cases*	-0.2	-5.8	3.9	1.2	-8.5	-9.5	-41.3
Other federal statute	number	16,295	16,660	16,610	16,383	12,585		
	% change in the number of cases*	15.3	2.2	-0.3	-1.4	-23.2	-22.8	27.1

* refers to the previous year

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Cases before youth courts, rate per 10,000 youths, Canada and provinces, 1999/00 to 2003/04

	Rate of cases per 10,000 youths					% change 2002/03 to 2003/04	% change 1999/00 to 2003/04	% change 1991/92 to 2003/04
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04			
Canada	355	354	343	336	278	-17	-22	-40
Newfoundland and Labrador	325	324	381	391	326	-17	0	-37
Prince Edward Island	240	145	247	244	175	-28	-27	-59
Nova Scotia	372	364	344	295	265	-10	-29	-38
New Brunswick	338	309	306	289	248	-14	-27	-22
Quebec	188	175	183	156	147	-6	-22	-13
Ontario	380	413	393	395	313	-21	-18	-40
Manitoba	519	493	467	403	382	-5	-26	-45
Saskatchewan	742	757	790	827	710	-14	-4	-16
Alberta	473	449	429	414	347	-16	-27	-57
British Columbia	299	247	216	231	181	-21	-39	-62
Yukon	964	969	774	738	439	-40	-54	-63
Northwest Territories	894	691	895	1,077	614	-43	-31	...
Nunavut ¹	381	645	625	665	734	10	93	...

Notes: Due to the creation of Nunavut from the Northwest Territories, data collected prior to 1999/00 cannot be compared to data collected after that date for these jurisdictions.
Reliable data are not available for the first year of reporting in Nunavut.

... not applicable

1. Rates of cases may be underreported for Nunavut, as there may be charge and case information from remote areas that is entered into their caseload management system several months after sending their data submission for the Youth Court Survey.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Decisions in youth courts, Canada, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Year		Total cases	Type of decision				
			Guilty	Acquitted	Stay	Withdrawn / Dismissed	Other ¹
1999/00	No. of cases	87,600	55,534	1,163	9,921	20,482	500
	% of total cases	100.0	63.4	1.3	11.3	23.4	0.6
2000/01	No. of cases	87,617	53,283	1,186	10,282	22,511	355
	% of total cases	100.0	60.8	1.4	11.7	25.7	0.4
2001/02	No. of cases	85,640	51,952	1,132	10,114	22,024	418
	% of total cases	100.0	60.7	1.3	11.8	25.7	0.5
2002/03	No. of cases	84,592	50,433	1,098	10,384	22,388	289
	% of total cases	100.0	59.6	1.3	12.3	26.5	0.3
2003/04	No. of cases	70,465	40,184	1,011	8,365	20,470	435
	% of total cases	100.0	57.0	1.4	11.9	29.0	0.6

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

1. Other decisions include transfers to adult court (for only those cases where proceedings commenced under the YOA), transfers to another jurisdiction, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Mean and median length of custody and probation sentences, Canada, 2003/04

Most serious offence	Custody ¹		Probation	
	Mean (days)	Median (days)	Mean (days)	Median (days)
Total offences	67	33	381	360
Crimes against the person	99	60	406	360
Homicide	1,052	720	483	360
Attempted murder	520	450	323	360
Robbery	145	112	440	360
Sexual assault	195	180	532	540
Other sexual offences	152	120	527	540
Major assault	99	65	410	360
Common assault	50	30	374	360
Uttering threats	56	33	393	360
Criminal harassment	90	52	389	360
Other crimes against persons	149	120	397	360
Crimes against property	69	45	378	360
Theft	52	30	357	360
Break and enter	91	60	405	360
Fraud	63	40	382	360
Mischief	37	28	327	360
Possess stolen property	61	40	386	360
Other property crimes	105	60	403	360
Administration of justice	34	20	357	360
Fail to appear	25	10	338	360
Breach of probation	31	23	365	360
Unlawfully at large	41	20	367	360
Fail to comply with order	26	12	354	360
Other admin. justice	45	20	382	360
Other Criminal Code	70	40	384	360
Weapons	67	38	385	360
Prostitution	147	150	349	360
Disturbing the peace	55	1	269	270
Residual <i>Criminal Code</i>	71	40	394	360
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	74	40	388	360
Criminal Code traffic	79	60	393	360
Impaired driving	57	40	310	360
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	81	60	437	360
Total Criminal Code	74	40	388	360
Other federal statute total	38	20	334	360
Drug possession	39	18	304	360
Drug trafficking	101	60	372	360
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act</i>	34	20	329	360
Other federal statutes	22	9	256	207

1 S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

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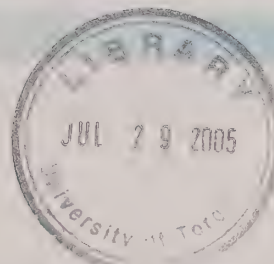
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Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004

by Julie Sauvé



Highlights

- Following an increase in 2003, the national police-reported crime rate fell slightly (-1%) in 2004. Although most crimes declined in 2004, noticeable increases were seen in homicides and drug incidents.
- The overall decrease in crime was largely driven by a 5% decline in Ontario. Most of this decline was due to large decreases in crime in the Hamilton, Ottawa, St. Catharines-Niagara and Toronto census metropolitan areas. Ontario's crime rate was the lowest in the country for the second year in a row.
- There were just over 302,000 violent crimes accounting for about 1 in 10 criminal incidents, with common assault accounting for nearly two-thirds of these. The total violent crime rate dropped by 2%.
- After reaching a 36-year low in 2003, the homicide rate increased by 12% in 2004. Police reported 622 victims of homicide in 2004, 73 more than the previous year. This resulted in a rate of 1.9 homicides per 100,000 population, 5% lower than a decade ago. The rate of attempted murders remained stable in 2004.
- There were about 27,000 robberies in 2004, a 4% drop in the rate from 2003. This resumed the general downward trend evident since 1996. Robberies with firearms decreased 3% in 2004.
- Nearly 1.3 million property crimes were reported in 2004, with thefts of \$5,000 and under accounting for slightly more than half of these. The property crime rate was 3% lower than in 2003. Most property crimes declined, with the exception of possession of stolen goods and fraud which increased by 6% and 4% respectively.
- Break-ins resumed their downward trend following the first increase in more than 10 years in 2003. There were about 275,000 break-ins, 4% lower than the previous year. There were nearly 170,000 motor vehicle thefts in 2004, resulting in a 4% drop in the vehicle theft rate.
- In 2003, police reported a large drop in cannabis incidents as a result of a climate of uncertainty within the law enforcement community given the introduction of legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis. In 2004, however, the rate of cannabis incidents resumed its upward trend, with a 10% increase. Cannabis possession comprised 7 in 10 cannabis offences.
- The youth crime rate dropped 4% in 2004. The rate of youths charged by police dropped 6%, while the rate of youths cleared by means other than a formal charge declined 2%.



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Introduction

Crime statistics in Canada have been available annually since 1962, permitting the analysis of crime trends over time. These data represent information on criminal incidents reported by Canadian police services to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey (see the Methodology section for a description of this survey).

Incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. However, it is important to note that many factors may influence police-reported crime statistics: reporting by the public to the police; reporting to CCJS by the police; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, demographic, social and economic changes.

The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Reporting to police

Each year, police-reported crime statistics are collected to measure the magnitude and the nature of criminal activity brought to the attention of the police. Every five years, these crime statistics are complemented by victimization data from the General Social Survey (GSS), also conducted by Statistics Canada. While the UCR survey measures crimes known to the police, victimization surveys provide estimates of criminal victimization, including those not reported to police. The failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of crime in official police statistics.

In 2004, the fourth national GSS victimization study surveyed approximately 24,000 persons aged 15 years and older. These individuals were asked about their personal and household victimization in the preceding 12 months and their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. The perceptions data were released in July 2005¹, while the victimization data are scheduled to be released in Fall 2005².

Victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population, whether or not the self-reported victimization was reported to, or substantiated by, the police. There are many reasons why victims may not report criminal incidents to police. According to the GSS, these reasons include the level of perceived seriousness of the incident, not wanting to involve the police, and fear of reprisals from the aggressor. However, other factors may encourage people to report certain types of criminal offences to police³: the desire to see the offender punished; social obligation to report criminal behaviour; as well as the need to obtain a police report for insurance purposes.

In addition, the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes may affect the crime rate. For example, greater awareness by the public, police and prosecutors in the areas of family violence and sexual assault may lower society's tolerance for these behaviours, which may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police.

Reporting by police to the UCR Survey

Crimes reported to the UCR survey by police agencies are subject to numerous quality control procedures, both on-site at the police service and at Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada and individual police services work together to identify and resolve any difficulties in the collection and transmission of crime data. The monthly crime statistics are edited and tabulated by Statistics Canada and sent back to individual police services at year-end for final authorization to release.

1. Maire Gannon, 2005, *General Social Survey, Cycle 18: an overview of findings*, Catalogue 85-565-XIE, Statistics Canada.
2. A detailed analysis will be available in the report *Criminal Victimization in Canada*, Juristat, Statistics Canada, forthcoming.
3. Besserer, S and Trainor, C., 2000, "Criminal Victimization in Canada", Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, no. 10, p. 11 & 12, Statistics Canada.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. When an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing offence, the number of incidents reported to police and by police will likely increase or decrease in reaction to these changes.

Changes in police enforcement practices, such as special operations to target certain types of crimes, will be reflected in official crime statistics. For certain crimes, the number of offences reported is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution and drug offences are most often identified through police-enforcement activities or proactive policing, and are rarely reported by the public.

With the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in April 2003, police services adjusted their policies to try and follow the principles set out in the YCJA to reduce youth contact with the formal justice system. Police-reported data confirm this, as the number of youths formally charged have dropped in both 2003 and 2004, while the number of youths cleared by means other than a charge increased in 2003 and decreased slightly in 2004.

Social, economic and demographic factors affecting the crime rate

In terms of demographics, persons aged 15 to 24 have higher rates of offending and of being victims of crime than other age groups. In 2004, persons aged 15 to 24 represented 14% of the Canadian population while accounting for 32% of those accused of property crimes and 42% of those accused of violent crimes. Decreasing crime rates in the 1990s have frequently been explained by changing demographics during the same period, as the proportion of young persons in the overall population continues to decline. As well, unemployment and measures of poverty and inequality are frequently cited as factors influencing crime rates.

A recent study⁴ further explored the relationship between selected crime trends (for the offences of homicide, robbery, break and enter and motor vehicle theft) and various demographic and economic changes such as the age composition of the population, unemployment, inflation and alcohol consumption. Results show that different factors have a different association, depending on the type of crime being examined. For example, shifts in the age composition of the population were found to be associated with shifts in break and enter but were not statistically significant for the other crime types being studied. Shifts in inflation were found to be associated with changes in financially-motivated crimes: robbery, motor vehicle theft and break and enter. Finally, shifts in alcohol consumption and the unemployment rate were found to be associated with shifts in the homicide rate. For a more detailed analysis concerning crimes and socio-demographic and economic trends, consult the report *Exploring Crime Patterns in Canada*, released by Statistics Canada.

2004 Crime Data

In 2004, nearly 2.6 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug

Text Box 1 : Key terminology and definitions

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. Except for robbery, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and over time. The "crime rate" represents all *Criminal Code* incidents excluding traffic violations and other federal statutes, such as drug offences.

Accused persons

Includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime, and against whom enough evidence exists to lay a charge, regardless of whether they have been formally charged with an offence.

Persons cleared by charge

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

Persons cleared otherwise

This term refers to people who have not been formally charged by police, though there is sufficient evidence for the police to do so. This could occur for a number of reasons: the police used extrajudicial measures (see Youth Crime section), the police may have used discretion and decided not to lay a charge, the complainant did not want police to lay a charge, the accused was involved in other incidents in which one or more charges were laid, or death of the accused.

For more information on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report.

offences) were reported by police. Of these, 12% were violent crimes, 50% were property crimes, and the remaining 39% were other *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief, counterfeiting, disturbing the peace and bail violations (Table 1). Twenty-five years ago this distribution was quite different, with violent crimes accounting for 8%, property 64% and other *Criminal Code* 28%.

In addition, there were close to 119,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (of which two-thirds were for impaired driving), 97,000 drug incidents and more than 34,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*). In total, police reported 2.8 million criminal incidents in 2004.

It is important to note that when making comparisons (across provinces, CMAs or historically), UCR data are subject to certain data quality limitations which are detailed in the Methodology section under "Data Revisions / Notes".

Following an increase in 2003, the crime rate dropped slightly in 2004

While the number of homicides and drug incidents increased in 2004, most crimes were on the decline. After having recorded the first increase in crime in more than 10 years in 2003 (+6%), the crime rate decreased slightly (-1%) in 2004. Both the violent

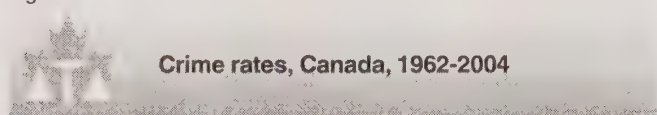
4. Holly Johnson and Valerie Pottle Bunge, 2005, *Exploring Crime Trends in Canada*, Catalogue 85-561-XPE, no. 5, Statistics Canada.

and property crime rates declined in 2004, by 2% and 3% respectively, while the rate of other *Criminal Code* offences increased by 2% due to increases in counterfeiting and disturbing the peace incidents.

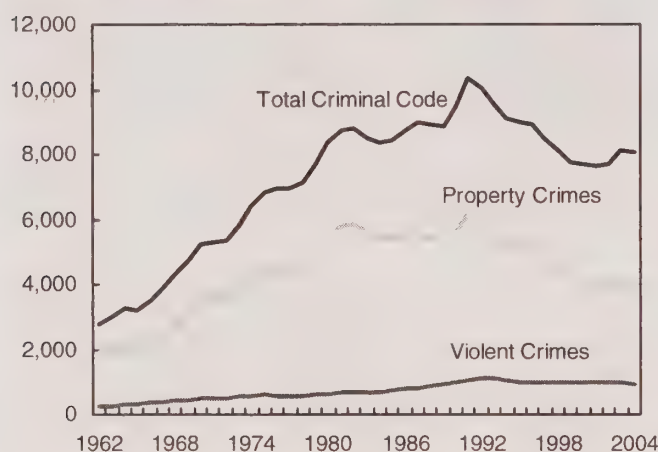
Ontario drove the decline in the national crime rate in 2004, with a 5% drop. A number of major census metropolitan areas in Ontario reported large decreases: Hamilton (-13%), Ottawa (-10%), St. Catharines-Niagara (-9%) and Toronto (-9%).

Over the past decade, the national crime rate has fallen 12%. The 1990s was a period of general decline in crime, followed by relative stability from 2000 to 2002 (Figure 1 - Table 2).

Figure 1



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

International trends

According to preliminary data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the number of violent crimes in the United States dropped by 2% in 2004, the same decline as seen in Canada. The number of homicides in the U.S. declined by 6% and robberies were down 5%⁵. England & Wales reported a 10% increase in their violent crimes for the period October to December 2004 compared with the same period in the previous year⁶. A decrease in violent crime had been observed in the previous quarter.

Similar to Canada, the number of property crimes decreased in both the United States and England & Wales. In the United States, burglary, motor vehicle theft and other theft all dropped by 2%.

Provincial trends

Ontario and Prince Edward Island were the only two provinces to show a large decrease in crime in 2004, both down 5%.

Saskatchewan's crime rate declined slightly (-2%), after having experienced the largest increase over the past 10 years among the provinces(+41%). Small increases in crime were noted in New Brunswick (+3%) and Nova Scotia (+2%).

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). Historically, crime rates had increased from east to west, but this has changed in recent years as rates in the Atlantic provinces are now generally higher than in Ontario and Quebec. Only in Newfoundland & Labrador is the crime rate lower than that of Quebec. The western provinces have the highest rates among the provinces. Rates in the three territories are much higher than in any of the provinces and are highly variable given their relatively small populations.

In 2004, provincial crime rates varied from 5,702 incidents per 100,000 population in Ontario to 15,159 in Saskatchewan. Ontario's rate was the lowest in the country for the second straight year. The crime rate in Alberta (10,390) was the lowest among the four western provinces for the 12th consecutive year.

Crime rates in census metropolitan areas

Almost half (47%) of all *Criminal Code* incidents in Canada were reported by police services from the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁷, which accounted for 50% of the national population (Table 4). In many instances, a single CMA will comprise a number of individual police services. Examining specific police services within CMA boundaries provides a clearer picture of how and where crime rates are changing (Table 5). For example, while the crime rate for the entire CMA of Vancouver was stable in 2004, both Burnaby and Vancouver police services reported increases (+12% and +3% respectively), while Richmond showed a 5% decline.

As already mentioned, among the nine largest CMAs, large declines were seen in the three Ontario CMAs (Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto). Among the smaller 18 CMAs, large declines were reported by Trois-Rivières (-10%), Saskatoon (-9%), St. Catharines-Niagara (-9%), Sherbrooke (-9%) and Saint John (-8%). The largest increases were seen in Thunder Bay (+8%) and Halifax (+5%).

For the fourth straight year, Saguenay reported the lowest crime rate (4,079) among all 27 CMAs⁸, followed by Toronto, Trois-Rivières and Québec. Regina reported the highest crime rate, followed by Saskatoon. Regina has had the highest crime rate since 1995, with the exception of 2003, when Saskatoon edged

5. Federal Bureau of Investigation National Press Office, *Preliminary Crime Statistics for 2004*. Web-site: www.fbi.gov/pressrel/05/ucrp/ucrp04.htm. It should be noted that these data refer to changes in the "number" of crimes rather than in the "rate".

6. Michelle Clegg, Andrea Finney and Katherine Thorpe, April 2005, *Crime in England & Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2004*, Home Office, England and Wales. It should be noted that these data refer to changes in the "number" of crimes rather than in the "rate".

7. A CMA refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been modified slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single census metropolitan area.

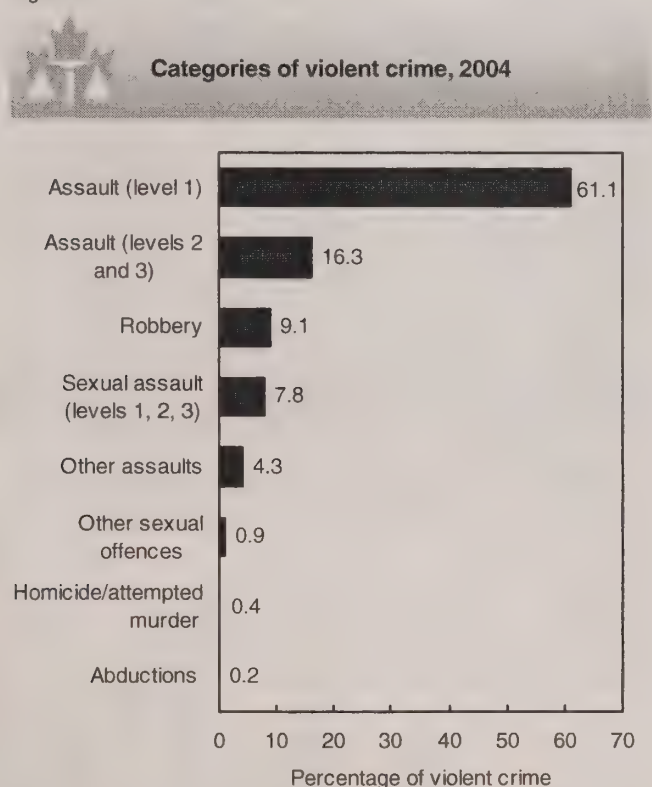
8. The CMA of Oshawa is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

higher. However, Saskatoon's 9% drop in crime in 2004 was one of the largest year over year decrease among CMAs under 500,000 population. Other CMAs with a crime rate of over 10,000 were all in the western provinces and included Abbotsford, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton and Victoria.

Violent Crime

Police services in Canada reported just over 302,000 incidents of violent crime in 2004. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 2). Three out of every five violent incidents are classified as level 1 assault, the least serious form.

Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

In 2004, the violent crime rate dropped by 2%, the largest decline since 1999. The violent crime rate has dropped 10% over the past decade, after having increased for most of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. The 2004 rate of 946 violent incidents per 100,000 population is 55% higher than the rate 25 years ago.

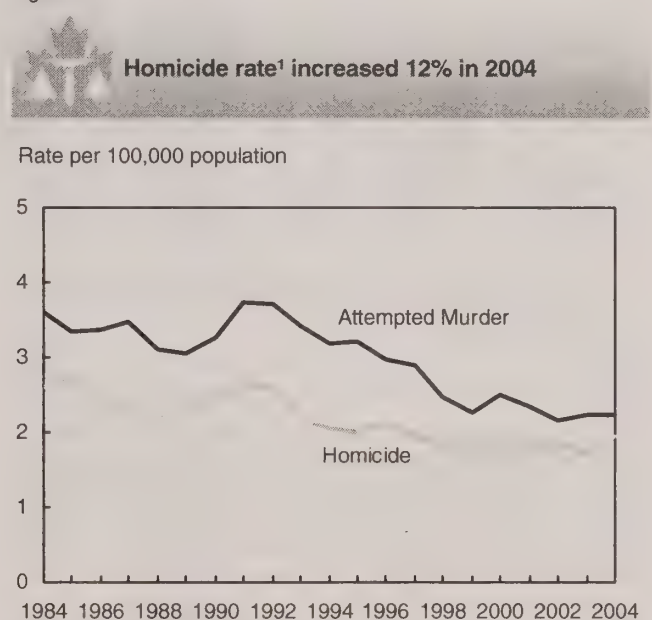
Saskatchewan has reported the highest violent crime rate among the provinces for the last seven years. Despite a 3% drop in 2004, Saskatchewan's violent crime rate (2,006) was still 25% higher than the next highest province, Manitoba. For the past decade, Quebec has recorded the lowest violent crime

rate (a rate of 726 in 2004). For the third straight year, Ontario was second lowest (755), reporting a 3% decline. All provinces reported either stable or decreasing violent crime rates.

Homicide

Homicide includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. After reaching a 36-year low in 2003, the homicide rate increased 12% in 2004 (Figure 3). A total of 622 victims were reported, 73 more than in 2003, resulting in a rate of 1.9 homicides per 100,000 population. Although this was the highest rate since 1997, the rate was still 5% lower than a decade ago. The rate of attempted murders remained stable in 2004.

Figure 3



1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The increase in homicides was primarily a result of large increases in a few provinces. Alberta showed the largest increase with 22 more homicides than the previous year, British Columbia reported 18 more homicides, and Quebec showed an increase of 12⁹.

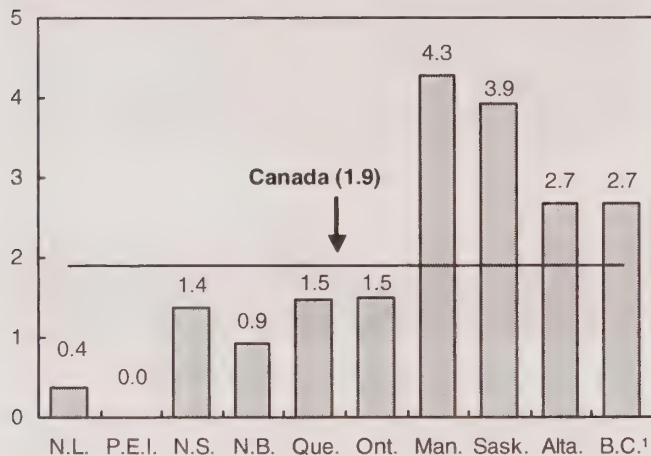
The Atlantic provinces generally have the lowest homicide rates in the country. This trend held in 2004 (Figure 4) as Prince Edward Island recorded no homicides, followed by Newfoundland & Labrador (0.4 homicides per 100,000 population). The highest rates were found in western Canada: Manitoba (4.3), Saskatchewan (3.9), British Columbia (2.7) and Alberta (2.7).

9. Detailed information on homicides in Canada will be released in the Juristat "Homicide in Canada", by Mia Dauvergne, October 2005.

Figure 4

Highest homicide rates in the west, 2004

Rate per 100,000 population



1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg, with an increase of 16 homicides in 2004, continued to have the highest rate (4.9), followed by Edmonton (3.4) and Vancouver (2.6). Winnipeg's rate was the highest recorded in that city since CMA data were first collected in 1981. The lowest rates were reported in Québec (0.8) and Ottawa (1.1).

Among the 18 smaller CMAs, Regina reported the highest homicide rate (5.0), with 10 homicides, followed by Abbotsford (4.4) and Saskatoon (3.3). It should be noted that, due to small numbers and populations, homicide rates are subject to fluctuations from year to year. Four CMAs reported zero homicides in 2004: Kingston, Sherbrooke, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Robbery

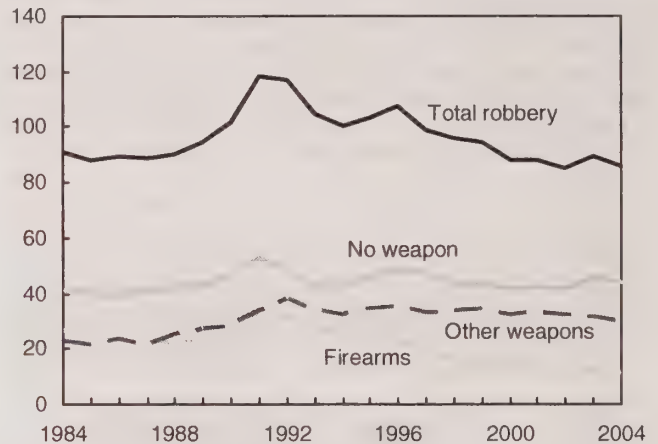
After having increased in 2003 for the first time in seven years, the robbery rate decreased 4% in 2004, returning to the general downward trend seen since 1996 (Figure 5). There were about 27,000 robberies reported in 2004, for a rate of 86 incidents per 100,000 population. This rate was 14% less than a decade earlier and 28% lower than the 1991 peak.

Despite a national decline in robberies, all four Atlantic provinces experienced significant increases in 2004 (Figure 6). Compared to 2003, the rate in Newfoundland & Labrador almost doubled (+97%). In Prince Edward Island, it increased by 44%, in New Brunswick by 23% and in Nova Scotia by 19%. However, overall robbery rates in the Atlantic provinces continue to be below the national rate.

Figure 5

Half of robbery incidents in 2004 committed without a weapon

Rate per 100,000 population

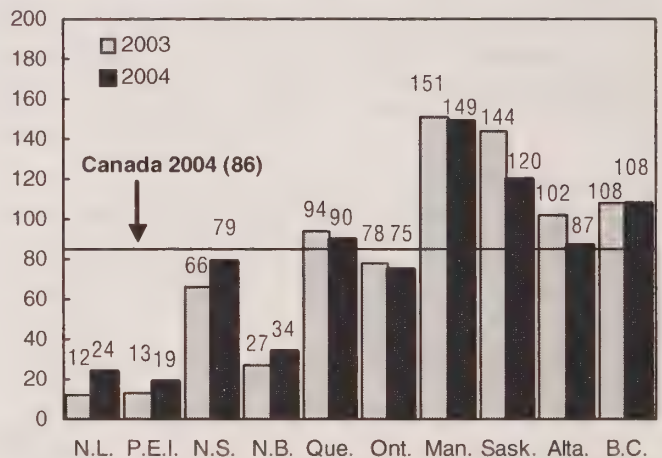


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 6

Increases in robbery in Atlantic provinces

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Robbery rates declined or remained stable among the nine largest CMAs, with the largest drops reported in Calgary (-21%), Ottawa (-15%) and Edmonton (-13%). Among the smaller CMAs, the largest drop was in Saskatoon (-32%). However, as per the general increase in the Atlantic provinces, large increases were reported in St. John's (+90%) and Saint John (+54%).

Text Box 2: Characteristics of robbery in Canada

Location – In 2004, about 4 out of 10 robberies were committed in commercial establishments: 16% in convenience stores and gas stations, 5% in banks and 20% in other commercial locations such as restaurants. Streets and roads were the next most common location (30%), followed by private residences (8%), parking lots (6%) and open areas (5%).

One recent trend has been the increase in robberies committed on public transit and in transit stations. Although the numbers are small, the proportion of robberies occurring in these areas has more than doubled over the past 7 years, from 1.6% of all robberies in 1998 to 3.5% in 2004. These facilities include buses, subways and all other public transit facilities.

Weapons – In 2004, half (51%) of all robberies were committed without a weapon, similar to the previous year. Of the 27,000 robbery incidents reported by police, 14% were committed with a firearm and the remaining 35% with a weapon other than a firearm. Handguns are the most common type of firearm present during robberies, accounting for more than four out of every five firearm robberies. Knives accounted for three out of every five robberies committed with a weapon other than a firearm in 2004.

Following an increase in 2003, the rate of firearm robbery resumed its downward trend evident since 1991, with a 3% drop in 2004 (Figure 5). Since 1991, the rate has decreased 63%. The rates of robberies committed with a weapon other than a firearm (-5%) and without a weapon (-4%) both decreased as well.

Weapons by location – Police-reported data show that, in 2004, the type of weapon used to commit a robbery varies by the location of the robbery. In 3 out of every 5 robberies in public transit facilities, physical force was most commonly used by the attacker. For robberies committed in convenience stores and gas stations, a little less than 4 out of 10 were committed with a knife or other cutting instrument. Three out of ten bank robberies were committed with a firearm. In residential robberies, physical force was most commonly used.

Multiple attackers – Of all incidents of robbery in a public place¹⁰ (which account for more than 2 in 5 robberies) occurring in 2004, 8% involved more than one attacker, sometimes referred to as “swarming”. The locations most frequent for this type of robbery were schools, where one in every five robberies involved multiple accused.

Sources: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, UCR2 Research Database, UCR2 Trend Database, UCR Aggregate Database.

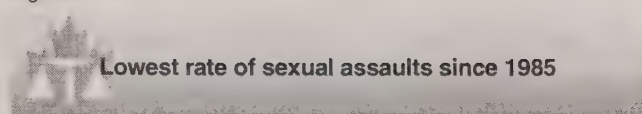
Despite a 2% decrease in 2004, Winnipeg¹¹ still reported the highest robbery rate (229 incidents per 100,000 population) among all 27 CMAs, followed by Regina (211), Saskatoon (209) and Halifax (161). The lowest rates were found in Saguenay (18) and Sudbury (41).

Sexual assault

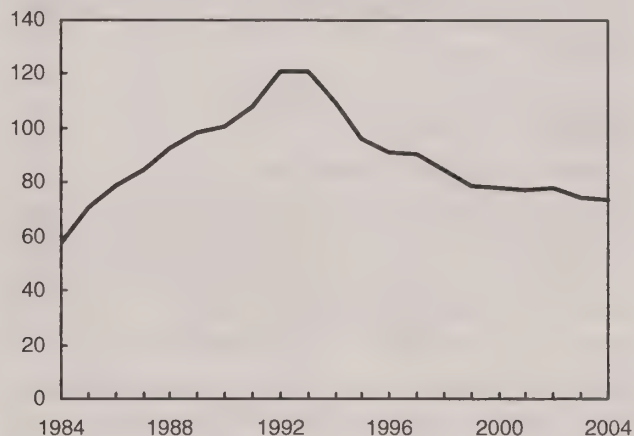
Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 (sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and level 3 (sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Among the more than 23,000 sexual assaults reported by police in 2004, 98% were classified as level 1.

The sexual assault rate remained stable in 2004, after having dropped in 2003 (Figure 7). The sexual assault rate peaked in the early 1990s and then generally declined throughout the '90s. The rate in 2004 (74 incidents per 100,000 population) was 33% lower than a decade ago and was at its lowest point since 1985.

Figure 7



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Level 1 sexual assaults decreased 1% in 2004, while one of the more serious forms of sexual assault (level 2) increased 8%.

All provinces reported drops or stability in sexual assault in 2004, with the exception of Quebec and Ontario where rates increased by 2% and 3% respectively. Prince Edward Island recorded the largest decline (-36%). Other notable decreases occurred in Nova Scotia (-9%) and Saskatchewan (-7%). Quebec once again had the lowest rate (59), followed by Ontario (65) and Prince Edward Island (65). The highest rates were seen in Saskatchewan (129) and Manitoba¹² (128).

Assault

The *Criminal Code* defines many types of assaults. Common assault (level 1 assault) is the most frequent and includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats. Other types of assault include: assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2 assault); aggravated assault (level 3 assault); and all other forms of assault including assault against a police officer and unlawfully causing bodily harm.

10. Includes parking lots, schools, other public transportation and connected facilities, streets, roads and highways and open areas.

11. Due to the implementation of a new records management system, April to December 2004 crime data for Winnipeg are primarily based upon estimates rather than actual data. For further details, see the Methodology section.

12. Due to the implementation of a new records management system, April to December 2004 crime data for Winnipeg are primarily based upon estimates rather than actual data. For further details, see the Methodology section.

In 2004, police reported about 234,000 assaults, resulting in a rate of 732 assaults per 100,000 population. This was 2% lower than 2003 and 5% below the rate a decade earlier.

Common assaults, which account for 4 out of every 5 assault incidents, decreased by 3% in 2004. Level 3 assaults also declined, down 8%. However, level 2 assaults increased slightly (+2%) for the 5th consecutive year, and are one of the few violent crimes to be showing an increase (+12%) over the past decade.

Property Crime

Property crimes on the decline

Property crimes are committed with the intent to acquire property without violence or the threat of violence. Nearly 1.3 million property crimes were reported by police in 2004, the most frequent of which were thefts, break-ins, theft of motor vehicles and fraud (Figure 8). Thefts, other than vehicle thefts, accounted for over half (55%) of all property crimes.

After having increased notably in 2003 for the first time since 1991, the property crime rate resumed its downward trend in 2004 (-3%). The rate (3,991 incidents per 100,000 population) was also 24% lower than a decade ago. Most property crimes decreased in 2004, with the exception of possession of stolen goods (+6%) and fraud (+4%).

Only three provinces reported an increase in property crimes in 2004: Nova Scotia (+6%), Newfoundland & Labrador (+5%) and Manitoba¹³ (+2%). As in the past, property crime rates tended to increase from east to west. Despite an increase, Newfoundland & Labrador still had the lowest property crime rate among the provinces (2,738 incidents per 100,000 population), while British Columbia continued to report the highest rate (6,763), reflecting the highest rate of theft in the country.

Break-ins

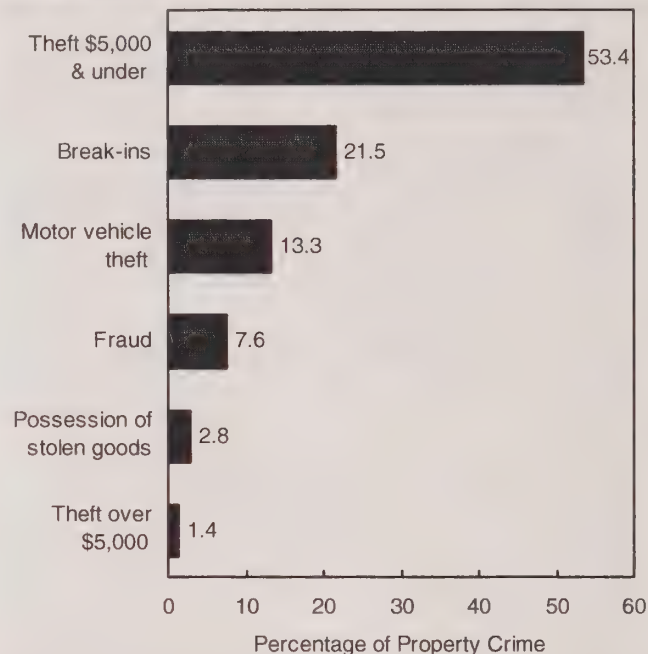
In 2004, police reported close to 275,000 break-ins, the third largest crime category, representing slightly over 1 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents. The rate of break-ins declined 4% in 2004, following the first increase in 10 years in 2003. The 2004 rate was 36% lower than a decade ago (Figure 9).

The majority of break-ins were committed in residences (56%), followed by businesses (31%) and all other locations (13%) such as schools, sheds and detached garages. In 2004, residential break-ins dropped 6%, business break-ins were down 2%, and break-ins at other locations declined 3%.

In 2004, large declines were reported in Prince Edward Island (-22%) and Ontario (-9%), with a large increase in Newfoundland & Labrador (+16%). Prince Edward Island (589 break-ins per 100,000 population) and Ontario (598) reported the lowest break-in rates in the country, while the highest rates were seen in the west, particularly in Saskatchewan (1,702) (Figure 10).

Figure 8

Categories of property crimes, Canada, 2004

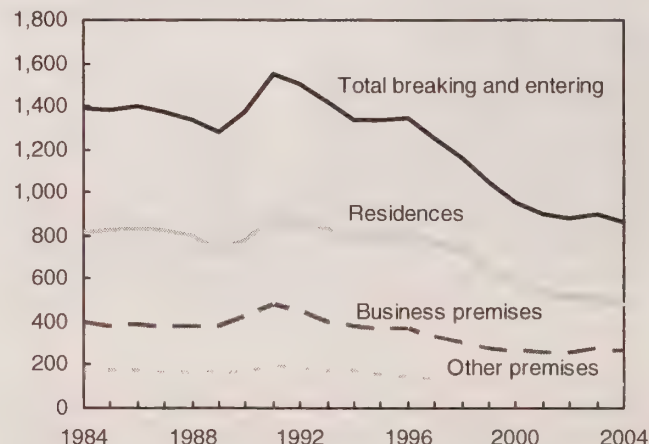


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 9

Break-ins resumed their downward trend in 2004

Rate per 100,000 population



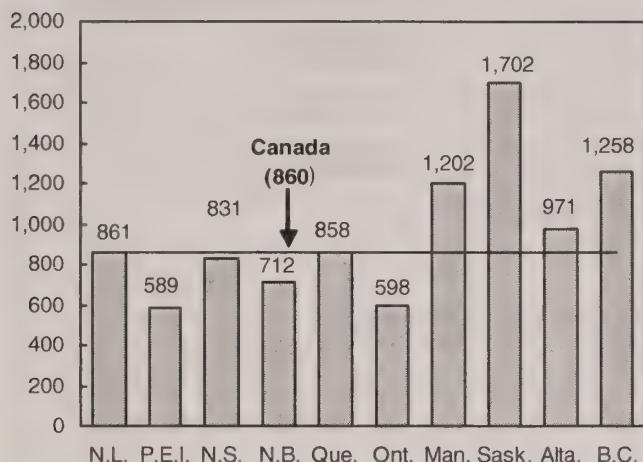
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

13. Idem

Figure 10

Saskatchewan had highest rate of break-ins in 2004

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Among the nine largest CMAs, only Edmonton reported a notable increase (+11%) in break-ins. Large drops were seen in Hamilton and Toronto (-16% each), contributing to the provincial decrease. Among the smaller CMAs, large increases were reported in St. John's (+34%), Windsor (+28%) and Victoria (+24%).

Other than in 2003, Regina has reported the highest rate of break-ins among all CMAs since 1991. In 2004, Regina (2,112) was followed by Saskatoon (1,797), Abbotsford (1,390) and Vancouver (1,325). The lowest rates were found in Toronto (449), Saguenay (542) and Ottawa (578).

Vehicle thefts

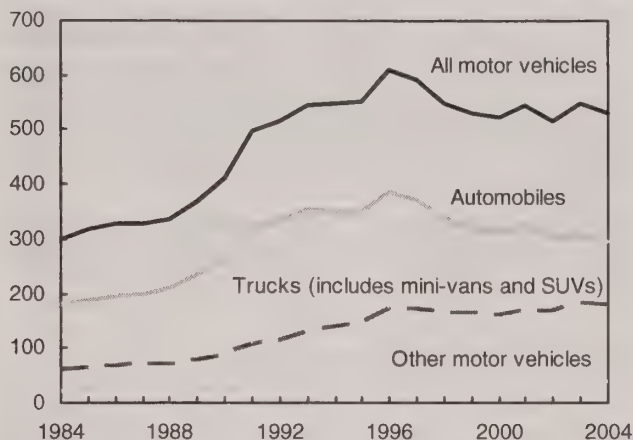
Since 1996, the motor vehicle theft rate has declined in all but two years (2001 and 2003). In 2004, there were nearly 170,000 motor vehicle thefts, resulting in a 4% drop in the vehicle theft rate.

Cars continue to be the most common type of vehicle stolen, accounting for 56% of all vehicle thefts in 2004 (Figure 11). Trucks, including mini-vans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs), accounted for just over one-third (34%), while motorcycles, construction equipment and all other motor vehicles accounted for the remaining 10%. Thefts of cars dropped by 4% and thefts of trucks were down 2% in 2004. Over the past decade, thefts of cars have decreased by 16% while thefts of trucks have increased 26%. This phenomenon is primarily due to an increase in the popularity of vans and SUVs among consumers and as a target for theft.

Figure 11

Motor vehicle theft rate in 2004 lower than 10 years ago

Rate per 100,000 population

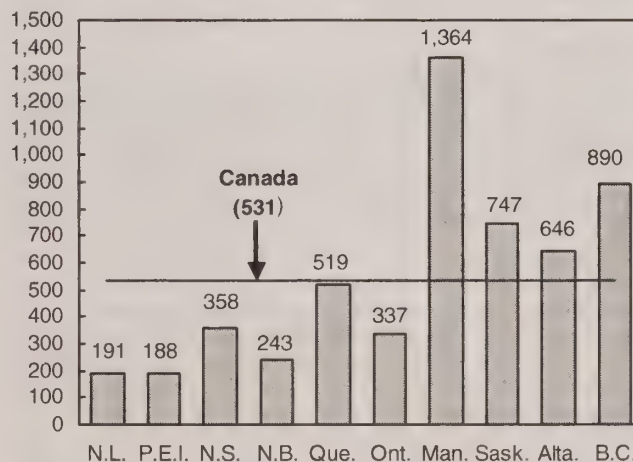


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 12

Manitoba had highest rate of vehicle theft in 2004

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Among those provinces reporting a drop in vehicle theft, the largest were in Ontario (-12%) and British Columbia (-6%). By far the largest increase was a 52% hike in Newfoundland & Labrador's rate, primarily due to the vehicle theft rate doubling in St. John's. The other large increases were found in Nova Scotia (+24%) and Manitoba (+23%).

The highest vehicle theft rates among the CMAs were recorded in Winnipeg (1,932 incidents per 100,000 population) and Abbotsford (1,529). The lowest rate was reported in Saint John (135), with a 43% decrease in 2004. St. John's had reported the lowest rate in 2003 before their large increase last year.

Thefts

The *Criminal Code* establishes a distinction between thefts of property over \$5,000 and thefts under \$5,000. In 2004, close to 700,000 thefts were reported by police (excluding vehicle thefts and thefts resulting from break-ins), accounting for over half (55%) of all property crimes and about one-quarter (27%) of all *Criminal Code* incidents. Ten years ago, these thefts comprised almost one-third (32%) of all incidents.

The large majority (98%) of these thefts were of property under \$5,000. The 2004 theft rate was 4% lower than the previous year.

Other *Criminal Code* Incidents

Nearly 4 incidents in 10 are classified as neither violent nor property crimes. In 2004, there were close to 1 million incidents of this type, categorized as "other" *Criminal Code* offences. Mischief, counterfeiting, disturbing the peace and administration of justice offences comprise about three-quarters of all "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (Figure 13).

In 2003, this group of offences increased by 11%, primarily due to a large increase in counterfeiting from 2002. In 2004, however, other *Criminal Code* offences showed a lesser increase (+2%), as the rate of increase in counterfeiting slowed to 14%. An increase in disturbing the peace incidents (+13%) also contributed to the overall increase in other *Criminal Code* incidents.

Mischief

The over 354,000 mischief incidents (including vandalism) accounted for over one-third (36%) of all other *Criminal Code* incidents, 14% of all incidents reported by police, and represented the second largest offence after theft. In 2004, the rate of mischief declined 2% from 2003, and was 19% lower than a decade ago.

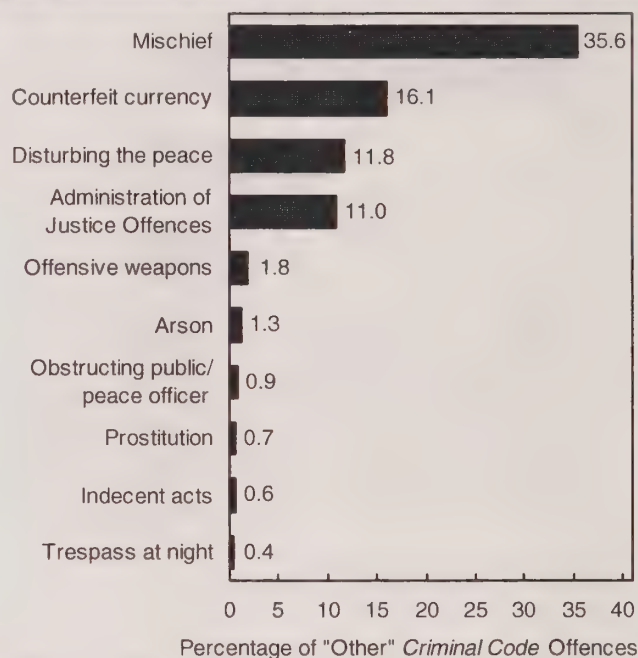
Counterfeiting

While five years ago counterfeiting incidents accounted for 5% of other *Criminal Code* incidents, in 2004 they accounted for 16%. The rate of counterfeiting had doubled in 2002 and increased by 73% in 2003; however, in 2004, the rate of increase slowed to 14%.

According to police-reported data, Saskatchewan showed the biggest increase in counterfeiting in 2004 (+142%), followed by New Brunswick (+36%) and British Columbia (+33%). Newfoundland & Labrador reported the largest decrease, down 29%. Given the large volume of this offence, it should be noted that these recent increases in counterfeiting could have a major impact on overall crime rates at both the police service level as well as at the provincial level.

Figure 13

Categories of "other" *Criminal Code* offences in 2004



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Text Box 3: Counterfeiting data from Bank of Canada

Data from the Bank of Canada¹⁴ confirm that counterfeiting rates increased significantly in 2002 and 2003. Data for 2004 show a 25% increase in counterfeits passed, but only a 2% increase in the overall value of counterfeit bills, from \$12.7 million in 2003 to \$13.0 million in 2004. Since 2000, the \$10 and \$20 bills have been the most counterfeited notes, comprising 87% of all counterfeits in 2004.

In 2004, the Bank of Canada issued new \$20s, \$50s, and \$100s with security (anti-counterfeiting) features. An upgraded \$10 note incorporating the same features was issued in 2005. The Bank has also stepped up its educational campaign with retailers, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies to increase awareness.

Disturbing the peace

The rate of disturbing the peace incidents increased by 13% in 2004. With the exception of 2002, this offence has climbed steadily since 1995. The 117,000 incidents of disturbing the peace represent the highest number ever reported for this offence. Over the last 10 years the rate of disturbing the peace has more than doubled.

Some of this increase may be due to a number of police services implementing new reporting systems over the past decade which make it easier for the public to report minor offences.

14. Bank of Canada, 2005, Bank of Canada Annual Report 2004, Ottawa.

Administration of justice offences

There were more than 109,000 administration of justice offences reported by police in 2004. These include such offences as judicial interim release violations (also referred to as bail violations), failure to appear in court, failure to comply with a condition of undertaking or recognizance, a summons or an appearance notice and escaping custody. Together, these offences account for 11% of other *Criminal Code* incidents.

These offences remained relatively stable through the 1990s, but began to increase in 2000. Since then, these offences have increased by 25%, including a 2% increase in the rate in 2004. The volume of these offences impacts the entire justice system by interrupting existing prosecution and court processes, increasing remand rates and adding to backlogs in the court system.

Offensive weapons

In 2004, police reported 18,000 *Criminal Code* offensive weapons incidents, resulting in a rate similar to 2003. The rate of illegal possession of a weapon increased by 6% and accounted for 6 in 10 weapons offences. Illegal possession includes having an unregistered firearm or failing to obtain a license to possess a firearm.

A further 11% of weapons-related offences fell into the illegal firearms usage category (e.g. using a firearm in the commission of an offence or pointing a firearm). This category dropped by 6% in 2004 as did the remaining 28% comprising "other" weapons offences (e.g. careless use, illegal destruction of a firearm, tampering with serial numbers).

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Police reported about 119,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents in 2004. Two-thirds of these incidents were impaired driving offences, 20% were for failure to stop or remain at an accident, 8% were for dangerous driving and the remaining 5% were for driving while prohibited.

Impaired driving

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. The number of impaired driving incidents includes instances of police issuing road-side suspensions, rather than laying a formal charge, to drivers found to have a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit.

In 2004, police reported close to 79,000 incidents of impaired driving, or 247 incidents per 100,000 population. This rate remained stable compared to 2003.

With the exception of a small increase in 2001, the rate of impaired driving has been decreasing over the past 20 years. The 2004 rate was 33% lower than a decade ago. The rate of impaired driving offences can be quite sensitive to changes in enforcement policies and practices such as the presence of roadside spot checks and increased police patrols during particular time periods.

Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate among the provinces (561). Despite reporting the largest drop in impaired driving incidents (-11%), Prince Edward Island still recorded the second highest rate (393). Since 2000, the lowest rates have been seen in Ontario (a rate of 147 in 2004) and Newfoundland & Labrador (170).

Drug Incidents

Drug incidents back on the increase

In 2003, the large decline in the rate of cannabis possession offences, which drove down the overall drug rate, may have been the result of a climate of uncertainty within the law enforcement and criminal justice community given the introduction of legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis, as well as a number of court rulings questioning the constitutionality of current laws regarding cannabis possession. It may also have been a result of a re-prioritization of police resources towards more serious offences that could have a greater impact on the drug trade. In 2004, this legislation was re-introduced and still stands before the House of Commons.

After the 7% drop in drug crimes in 2003, the rate of drug crimes increased once again in 2004, up 11% (Figure 14). Total cannabis offences increased 10%, with cannabis possession offences up 15%. The rate of cocaine (+17%) and heroin (+19%) offences increased as well, though heroin incidents numbered fewer than 800 in total. Over the past decade, the rate of heroin incidents has declined by half (-55%).

In 2004, police reported more than 97,000 incidents under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Cannabis offences accounted for 7 in 10 of these incidents. Cannabis possession comprised 71% of cannabis incidents and almost half (49%) of all drug incidents.

One growing issue related to drugs is the cultivation of cannabis, sometimes referred to as marijuana grow operations. According to Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC), the number of marijuana grow operations continues to rise and much of this phenomena is linked to organized crime¹⁵. Marijuana grow operations appear to be a profitable market for organized crime, due to the high demand for cannabis. Police services across all provinces are reporting grow operations as one of their main drug enforcement problems.

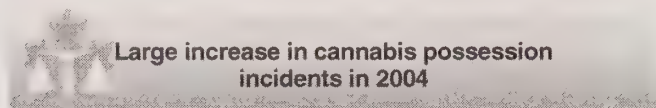
According to a report released by the RCMP¹⁶, most indoor residential grow operations pose some form of risk. Grow operations represent a risk to the health and safety not only of the occupants of the residences in which the cultivation occurs, but to the surrounding occupants as well. For example, groups involved in cannabis cultivation steal electricity by circumventing utility meters, resulting in an increased risk of fire.

15. Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, 2004, Annual Report on Organized Crime, Ottawa.

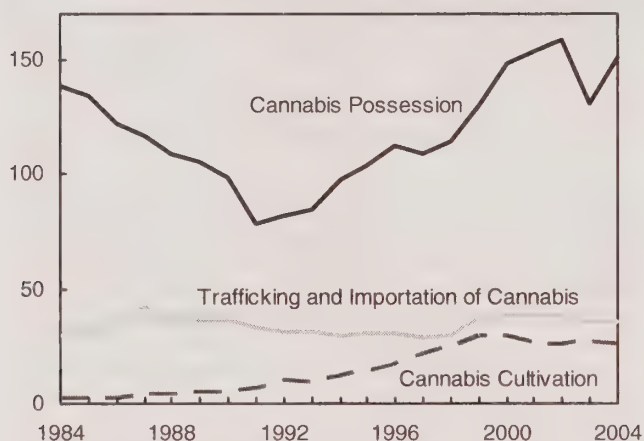
16. RCMP, 2004, Illegal Drug Situation in Canada – 2003, Criminal Investigations Division, Ottawa.

According to police-reported data, the rate of cannabis cultivation offences has more than doubled over the past decade. Ten years ago, there were more than 3,400 cannabis cultivation incidents in Canada. By 2004, this number increased to more than 8,000 incidents. Over the same period, cannabis possession offences have increased by 54%.

Figure 14



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The rate of drug offences remained stable or increased in all provinces in 2004, with the largest increases in Ontario (+26%) and New Brunswick (+18%). Among the provinces, rates ranged from a low of 157 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland & Labrador to 634 in British Columbia, which has reported the highest rate for more than 20 years.

It should be noted that differences in provincial rates of drug offences can be influenced by changes in local enforcement policies and practices.

Text Box 4: New data collection on organized crime and other emerging priorities

In 2005, to address the lack of quantitative information on the involvement of organized crime in criminal incidents (i.e. extortion, homicide, drug trafficking), new data elements on organized crime activity and street gangs were added to the latest version of the incident-based crime survey (UCR2).

In addition, new data elements were added to the UCR2 Survey on hate-motivated crime, cyber crime and geo-coding. Reliable and accurate data collection on current priorities in the justice field is important for police services, policy makers and the general public. Police services will gradually migrate to the new version of this survey as their records management systems are upgraded over time.

Youth Crime

Text Box 5 : Measuring Youth Crime

Youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be formally charged or dealt with by other means. While this has always been true, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), which came into force on April 1, 2003 replacing the *Young Offenders Act*, recognizes that appropriate and effective responses to youth crime need not always involve the courts. The Act provides police services with a number of alternatives (extrajudicial measures) to charging a youth, including informal police warnings, formal police cautions, referrals to community programs, and referrals to extrajudicial sanctions (EJS) programs (formerly known as alternative measures programs). The Act requires that police officers consider extrajudicial measures prior to charging a youth and directs police to use extrajudicial measures if they are adequate to hold the youth accountable.

While all police services can provide police warnings and make referrals to community programs, the use of police cautioning programs and the ability to make referrals to extrajudicial sanction programs can differ significantly. Provinces/territories vary in the use of these programs due to pre-charge or post-charging policies. In post-charge provinces like Ontario and Alberta, police services do not have the ability to offer a police caution, although in Alberta they can make a "recommendation" to the Crown for a referral to an EJS program. If a warning is not deemed appropriate, police will charge the youth and the Crown will decide whether to offer a post-charge caution, make a referral to an EJS program or prosecute the original charge. Data on post-charge programs are not included in police-reported data.

Some police services report to CCJS on the activities of informal police cautioning programs, and these counts are included with the formal police cautioning counts. In some cases, police are finding it difficult to distinguish between warnings and cautions in their informal approach to dealing with youth accused. For this reason, 2004 police-reported data for warnings and cautions have been combined into one category in this report.

In 2004, police-reported data show that, among the youth cleared by means other than a formal charge, 47% received a warning or caution, 8% were formally referred to an extrajudicial sanctions program, 4% were informal referrals to community-based programs, and the remaining 40% were cleared by "other means", such as the complainant did not want police to lay a charge, the accused was involved in other incidents in which one or more charges were laid, the youth was already incarcerated, or police did not collect information on the new YCJA codes¹⁷.

About 78,000 youths aged 12-17 were charged with *Criminal Code* offences in Canada in 2004, and a further 101,000 were cleared by means other than the laying of a formal charge (Table 6). It should be noted that this figure likely underestimates the true number of youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge, as not all police services maintain complete records for all youths dealt with in this manner.

The rate of youths formally charged by police dropped 6%, while the rate of youths cleared by other means decreased by 2% (Figure 15). Taking these two measures together, the overall youth crime rate decreased by 4% in 2004. The youth crime rate had decreased throughout the 1990s, reaching a low in 1999, and generally increased between 1999 and 2003. The 2004 rate was 9% higher than in 1999.

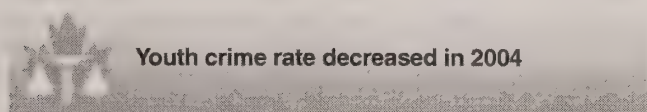
The decline in youths charged suggests that the charging practices of police services have adjusted in response to the YCJA. However, it should be noted that any increase in youths cleared otherwise, as was noted in 2003, may be partly attributable to increased reporting by police of youths not

17. Incident-based UCR Survey data.

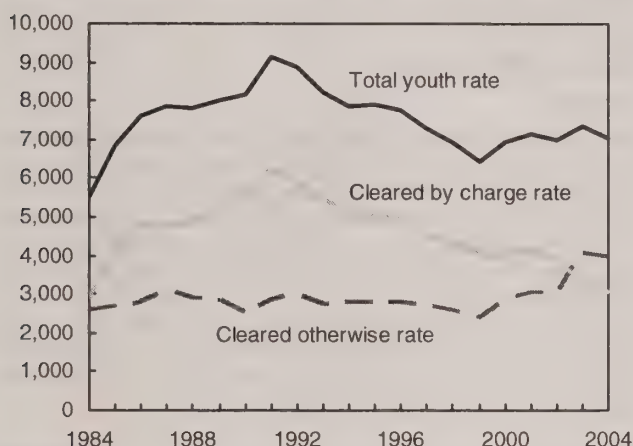
formally charged, due to the new YCJA provisions on extrajudicial measures.

Three provinces reported an increase in their youth crime rate in 2004: New Brunswick (+14%), Manitoba¹⁸ (+3%) and Ontario (+2%). Six provinces reported considerable drops in youth crime: Prince Edward Island (-22%), British Columbia (-13%), Nova Scotia (-11%), Alberta (-9%), Quebec (-9%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (-7%).

Figure 15



Rate per 100,000 youth



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

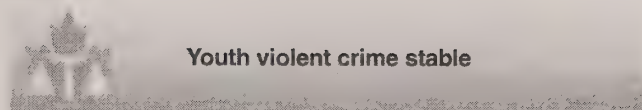
The Prairie provinces recorded the highest youth crime rates among the provinces. Saskatchewan had the highest rate (19,185 youth accused per 100,000 youths), followed by Manitoba (11,278) and Alberta (9,261). Quebec once again had the lowest rate (4,072) (Table 7). Youth crime rates in the territories were much higher, particularly in the Northwest Territories (46,631) and Nunavut (36,314).

Data from the Incident-based UCR Survey indicate that youth account for 21% of all persons accused of *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic). Robbery, sexual assault and other sexual offences are the only violent crimes for which youth account for more than 20% of accused persons. However, youth tend to make up higher proportions of persons accused of property crimes, accounting for 3 out of 10 persons accused of break-ins, thefts of \$5,000 and under and motor vehicle thefts.

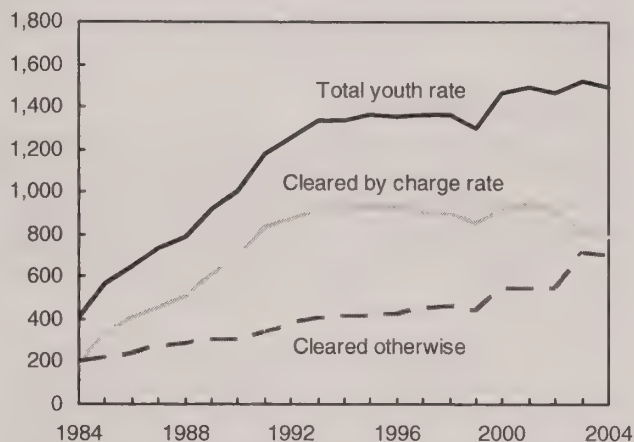
Youth violent crime

In 2004, the youth violent crime rate decreased by 2%. Over the past decade, this rate has remained relatively stable except for an increase in 2000 (Figure 16). Youths charged with a violent offence dropped 2% in 2004, while youths cleared by means other than a charge declined 1%.

Figure 16



Rate per 100,000 youth population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Most categories of youth violent crime declined in 2004. The youth homicide rate decreased by 30% and the youth robbery rate dropped by 2%.

Youth property crime

Two out of every five youth crimes in 2004 were for offences related to property. The youth property crime rate decreased by 8% in 2004. The rate had increased in 2003, after three years of stability. Youths charged with property offences dropped by 12%, while youths cleared by means other than a charge decreased 5%.

The majority of property offences declined in 2004, including an 11% decrease in the rate of motor vehicle thefts and an 8% drop in break-ins.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2004 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada.

18. Due to the implementation of a new records management system, April to December 2004 crime data for Winnipeg are primarily based upon estimates rather than actual data. For further details, see the Methodology section.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded from the "crime rate" in this report.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2004, 120 police services in 8 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey. These data represent 58% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2004 database were distributed as follows: 40.7% from Ontario, 32.1% from Quebec, 11.5% from Alberta, 7.6% from British Columbia, 4.8% from Saskatchewan, 1.8% from Nova Scotia, 0.9% from Newfoundland and Labrador and 0.6% from New Brunswick. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the

national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 69 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 45% of the national volume of crime in 2004. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least five years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database. The incidents contained in the 2004 Trend database were distributed as follows: 41.5% from Quebec, 30.1% from Ontario, 14.8% from Alberta, 6.6% from British Columbia, 6.2% from Saskatchewan and 0.8% from New Brunswick.

Data Revisions / Notes

Ontario

During the production of each year's crime statistics, data from the previous year are revised to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services. During the revision of the 2001 data for the province of Ontario, a discrepancy in methodology applied by the forces in the province using the Ontario Municipal & Provincial Police Automated Co-operative (OMPPAC) system was detected. These forces report approximately one-third of the total criminal incidents for the province and include the OPP and about 60 small and mid-sized municipal forces. This discrepancy resulted in an over-count of less serious criminal incidents.

A similar problem with data from Toronto Police was detected in 1992. During 2003 and 2004, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) consulted with affected police services and analyzed both historical aggregate UCR data and more recent UCR2 microdata to determine the impact of this over-reporting

The effect at the Canada level was, on average, 1% per year from 1977 to 2000. This over-counting peaked in 1991, where it was estimated that the total crime rate for the country was over-estimated by approximately 1.8%. However, the overall historical trend changed very little.

The impact in Ontario is more noticeable, but the overall trend is still very similar. On average, the effect of the over-counting was 2-3% per year, with the biggest change occurring in 1991, where the Ontario crime rate is 5% lower as a result of the adjustment.

For further information, readers should refer to the report *Summary of Historical Adjustments to Crime Data for Ontario 1977-2000*, available on Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca, under the Definitions, Data Sources and Methods, Surveys and Statistical Programs, Justice Crime and Offences, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Manitoba

Due to the implementation of a new records management system, the 2004 crime data for Winnipeg is primarily based upon estimates rather than actual data for the full year. With the exception of homicide and motor vehicle theft statistics, actual data was only available from January to March 2004 and had to be estimated for the remaining nine months of 2004.

This was done by the Winnipeg Police Service by substituting April to December 2003 data for the same time period in 2004. As a result, the data may not be an accurate reflection of the actual crime statistics for 2004. The same concerns apply to the Manitoba provincial crime statistics as Winnipeg is the largest city in Manitoba and accounts for the majority of its crime statistics.

Table 1

Federal statute incidents reported to police, by most serious offence, Canada, 2000 to 2004

	2000		2001		2002		2003 ¹		2004		% change in rate* 2003-2004	% change in rate* 1994-2004 ²
	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹		
Population	30,689,035		31,021,251		31,372,587		31,660,466		31,946,316			
Homicide ²	546	2	553	2	582	2	549	2	622	2	12.3	-5.3
Attempted murder	767	2	725	2	678	2	707	2	717	2	0.5	-29.4
Assault - Total	233,719	762	236,957	764	235,710	751	236,802	748	233,774	732	-2.2	-4.5
Level 1	190,467	621	191,147	616	189,185	603	188,667	596	184,655	578	-3.0	-7.7
Level 2 - Weapon	40,686	133	43,094	139	43,793	140	45,222	143	46,410	145	1.7	11.7
Level 3 - Aggravated	2,566	8	2,716	9	2,732	9	2,913	9	2,709	8	-7.8	-18.0
Other assaults	12,164	40	12,260	40	12,454	40	12,534	40	12,873	40	1.8	-18.1
Sexual assault - Total	24,001	78	24,044	78	24,499	78	23,514	74	23,534	74	-0.8	-32.6
Level 1	23,428	76	23,563	76	23,973	76	22,983	73	22,966	72	-1.0	-31.8
Level 2 - Weapon	391	1	320	1	373	1	359	1	393	1	8.5	-53.6
Level 3 - Aggravated	182	1	161	1	153	0	172	1	175	1	0.8	-56.5
Other sexual offences	3,114	10	2,689	9	2,756	9	2,565	8	2,625	8	1.4	-37.6
Abduction	750	2	674	2	605	2	559	2	635	2	12.6	-48.9
Robbery - Total	27,037	88	27,284	88	26,662	85	28,437	90	27,477	86	-4.2	-14.0
Firearms	4,323	14	3,818	12	3,483	11	3,856	12	3,757	12	-3.4	-53.7
Other weapons	9,901	32	10,280	33	10,104	32	10,057	32	9,659	30	-4.8	-6.6
No weapons	12,813	42	13,186	43	13,075	42	14,524	46	14,061	44	-4.1	4.1
Violent crimes - Total	302,098	984	305,186	984	303,946	969	305,667	965	302,257	946	-2.0	-9.7
Breaking & entering - Total	293,357	956	279,461	901	275,573	878	284,925	900	274,717	860	-4.4	-35.7
Residential	175,804	573	166,500	537	163,156	520	161,494	510	153,098	479	-6.0	-38.8
Business	82,074	267	80,264	259	81,162	259	86,842	274	85,816	269	-2.1	-29.5
Other	35,479	116	32,697	105	31,255	100	36,589	116	35,803	112	-3.0	-35.2
Motor vehicle theft	160,315	522	168,595	543	161,912	516	174,208	550	169,544	531	-3.5	-3.5
Theft over \$5,000 ³	21,354	70	20,845	67	19,816	63	19,416	61	17,294	54	-11.7	-40.8
Theft \$5,000 and under ³	663,040	2,161	659,589	2,126	667,312	2,127	700,605	2,213	680,885	2,131	-3.7	-23.4
Possession of stolen goods	28,530	93	26,960	87	30,056	96	33,151	105	35,400	111	5.8	6.7
Fraud	85,791	280	86,486	279	91,812	293	92,924	294	97,091	304	3.5	-14.6
Property crimes - Total	1,252,387	4,081	1,241,936	4,004	1,246,481	3,973	1,305,229	4,123	1,274,931	3,991	-3.2	-24.1
Mischief	326,374	1,063	333,136	1,074	333,334	1,063	357,568	1,129	353,661	1,107	-2.0	-19.1
Counterfeiting currency	35,937	117	38,674	125	39,970	125	39,267	124	159,889	500	13.8	333.5
Bail violations	78,105	255	90,545	292	96,206	307	101,095	319	104,334	327	2.3	43.6
Disturbing the peace	80,085	261	89,971	290	89,354	285	102,909	325	117,022	366	12.7	107.4
Offensive weapons	15,324	50	15,876	51	15,930	51	17,621	56	18,002	56	1.2	-13.5
Prostitution	5,051	16	5,087	16	5,770	18	5,688	18	6,493	20	13.1	5.7
Arson	13,733	45	14,484	47	13,131	42	13,875	44	13,148	41	-6.1	-11.7
Other	243,674	794	239,916	773	233,322	744	230,253	727	222,123	695	-4.4	-13.2
Other Criminal Code offenses - Total	798,283	2,601	827,689	2,668	867,017	2,764	968,276	3,058	994,672	3,114	1.8	10.4
Criminal Code without traffic - Total (crime rate)	2,352,768	7,666	2,374,811	7,655	2,417,444	7,706	2,579,172	8,146	2,571,860	8,051	-1.2	-11.8
Impaired driving ⁴	79,225	258	82,718	267	80,045	255	77,645	245	78,960	247	0.8	-33.5
Fail to stop/remain	19,522	64	22,538	73	22,040	70	23,336	74	23,835	75	1.2	-64.0
Other - Criminal Code traffic	13,698	45	14,978	48	15,486	49	16,138	51	16,064	50	-1.3	-21.3
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	112,445	366	120,234	388	117,571	375	117,119	370	118,859	372	0.6	-42.1
Criminal Code - Total (incl. traffic)	2,465,213	8,033	2,495,045	8,043	2,535,015	8,080	2,696,291	8,516	2,690,719	8,423	-1.1	-13.8
Drugs	88,091	287	89,395	288	92,781	296	86,791	274	97,135	304	10.9	46.6
Cannabis	66,274	216	67,921	219	69,687	222	61,087	193	67,832	212	10.0	52.0
Cocaine	12,829	42	12,145	39	12,737	41	14,225	45	16,837	53	17.3	23.9
Heroin	1,226	4	951	3	786	3	657	2	792	2	19.5	-55.3
Other drugs	7,762	25	8,378	27	9,571	31	10,822	34	11,674	37	6.9	85.6
Other federal statutes	34,587	113	38,013	123	40,122	128	36,264	115	34,573	108	-5.5	-22.6
Total federal statutes (incl. C.c.)	2,587,891	8,433	2,622,453	8,454	2,667,918	8,504	2,819,346	8,905	2,822,427	8,835	-0.8	-12.7

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

¹ revised1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002; updated postcensal estimates for 2003; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years.

Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized as Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased. To allow comparison, for those specific offenses, the trend has been calculated from 1996 to 2004.

4. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. In 2001, the RCMP began reporting incidents in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, most other police services began reporting this way as well. Previous to 2004, Vancouver Police only reported incidents of impaired driving when a charge had been laid. As of 2004, their data also include incidents where the driver was tested to be over .08 and received a road-side suspension. This resulted in 1,900 more impaired driving incidents being reported in 2004 than 2003.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2

Rates of *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2004¹

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offenses	
	rate	% change*	rate	% change*	rate	% change*	rate	% change*
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,388	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.0
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,957	2.6	829	5.7	5,553	0.1	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.7	5,439	-2.0	2,613	1.5
1989	8,892	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.7	2,692	3.0
1990	9,485	6.7	973	6.8	5,612	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,040	-2.9	1,084	2.3	5,904	-4.2	3,052	-2.3
1993	9,538	-5.0	1,082	-0.2	5,575	-5.6	2,881	-5.6
1994	9,125	-4.3	1,047	-3.2	5,257	-5.7	2,821	-2.1
1995	9,008	-1.3	1,009	-3.7	5,292	0.7	2,707	-4.0
1996	8,932	-0.8	1,002	-0.7	5,274	-0.3	2,656	-1.9
1997	8,475	-5.1	993	-0.9	4,880	-7.5	2,603	-2.0
1998	8,161	-3.7	982	-1.1	4,569	-6.4	2,610	0.3
1999	7,752	-5.0	958	-2.4	4,276	-6.4	2,518	-3.5
2000	7,666	-1.1	984	2.7	4,081	-4.6	2,601	3.3
2001	7,655	-0.1	984	-0.1	4,004	-1.9	2,668	2.6
2002	7,706	0.7	969	-1.5	3,973	-0.8	2,764	3.6
2003 ^r	8,146	5.7	965	-0.3	4,123	3.8	3,058	10.7
2004	8,051	-1.2	946	-2.0	3,991	-3.2	3,114	1.8

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

2. Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2004¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. ²	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ³	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population, 2004	517,027	137,864	936,960	751,384	7,542,760	12,392,721	1,170,268	995,391	3,201,895	4,196,383	31,209	42,810	29,644	31,946,316
Homicide														
number	2	0	13	7	111	187	50	39	86	112	7	4	4	622
rate	0.4	0.0	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.5	4.3	3.9	2.7	2.7	22.4	9.3	13.5	1.9
% change in rate*	-59.9	-100.0	62.4	-12.6	11.4	3.9	15.4	-5.0	32.6	17.9	585.3	-1.4	31.1	12.3
Assault (levels 1,2,3)														
number	3,963	940	9,121	5,700	38,998	70,258	14,640	16,487	27,749	40,431	887	2,635	1,965	233,774
rate	766	682	973	759	517	567	1,251	1,656	867	963	2,842	6,155	6,629	732
% change in rate*	-3.5	-9.3	-2.2	-6.3	0.6	-4.4	-2.1	-1.4	0.3	-1.8	-16.0	2.7	0.0	-2.2
Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)														
number	478	90	820	607	4,422	8,053	1,494	1,283	2,449	3,323	57	179	279	23,534
rate	92	65	88	81	59	65	128	129	76	79	183	418	941	74
% change in rate*	-4.3	-35.5	-8.9	-2.6	2.1	2.8	-2.0	-7.3	-0.1	-4.7	-14.1	-2.0	-6.4	-0.8
Robbery														
number	126	26	739	253	6,804	9,255	1,747	1,190	2,776	4,518	21	19	3	27,477
rate	24	19	79	34	90	75	149	120	87	108	67	44	10	86
% change in rate*	97.4	43.8	18.7	23.3	-3.9	-4.2	-0.9	-16.7	-14.8	-0.1	-37.7	-35.4	-67.2	-4.2
Violent crimes - Total														
number	4,742	1,101	11,152	7,043	54,723	93,524	18,751	19,966	34,816	50,153	1,010	2,939	2,337	302,257
rate	917	799	1,190	937	726	755	1,602	2,006	1,087	1,195	3,236	6,865	7,884	946
% change in rate*	-2.5	-12.0	-1.0	-5.1	0.0	-3.2	-1.7	-2.6	-1.3	-1.5	-16.5	1.7	-1.9	-2.0
Breaking & entering														
number	4,453	812	7,787	5,350	64,689	74,075	14,070	16,939	31,097	52,778	550	1,065	1,052	274,717
rate	861	589	831	712	858	598	1,202	1,702	971	1,258	1,762	2,488	3,549	860
% change in rate*	15.7	-21.7	1.6	0.6	-5.7	-9.4	-1.3	-1.6	0.3	-2.4	-5.5	4.4	1.7	-4.4
Motor vehicle theft														
number	987	259	3,352	1,826	39,144	41,820	15,962	7,434	20,669	37,341	156	361	233	169,544
rate	191	188	358	243	519	337	1,364	747	646	890	500	843	786	531
% change in rate*	52.5	-4.5	23.6	4.4	-3.2	-11.6	22.9	-4.1	-2.6	-6.4	-19.2	-7.6	-6.1	-3.5
Other theft														
number	7,153	3,280	20,222	12,413	116,280	209,947	33,245	30,763	90,599	170,977	1,102	1,524	674	698,179
rate	1,383	2,379	2,158	1,652	1,542	1,694	2,841	3,091	2,830	4,074	3,531	3,560	2,274	2,185
% change in rate*	-6.6	2.8	4.5	-2.2	-2.9	-5.9	-4.2	-10.4	-1.9	-2.8	-21.4	5.1	-11.3	-3.9
Property crimes - Total														
number	14,156	4,832	36,482	22,564	241,527	373,435	66,692	62,093	162,144	283,790	1,979	3,174	2,063	1,274,931
rate	2,738	3,505	3,894	3,003	3,202	3,013	5,699	6,238	5,064	6,763	6,341	7,414	6,959	3,991
% change in rate*	4.6	-3.3	6.5	-1.2	-3.1	-5.9	1.9	-5.7	-1.3	-2.9	-16.3	2.5	-4.4	-3.2
Offensive weapons														
number	151	65	652	424	1,267	5,165	1,266	1,165	2,642	5,034	40	78	53	18,002
rate	29	47	70	56	17	42	108	117	83	120	128	182	179	56
% change in rate*	-11.5	-10.1	-8.2	-3.7	-4.9	1.3	-1.1	17.1	8.4	0.9	-55.0	-18.2	-24.5	1.2
Mischief														
number	6,412	2,090	13,702	9,540	48,160	91,944	30,494	27,415	51,355	62,222	1,683	5,790	2,854	353,661
rate	1,240	1,516	1,462	1,270	638	742	2,606	2,754	1,604	1,483	5,393	13,525	9,628	1,107
% change in rate*	0.9	1.4	-1.6	16.5	-7.5	-7.0	0.6	10.2	4.1	-4.6	-8.8	12.3	12.4	-2.0
Other Criminal Code offenses - Total														
number	13,779	5,400	34,482	25,344	193,482	239,707	63,799	68,829	135,709	191,517	4,228	11,921	6,475	994,672
rate	2,665	3,917	3,680	3,373	2,565	1,934	5,452	6,915	4,238	4,564	13,547	27,846	21,843	3,114
% change in rate*	-1.0	-5.9	-2.0	9.6	4.5	-4.6	2.0	2.1	3.7	5.8	-10.0	17.4	10.2	1.8
Criminal Code - Total - without traffic offences														
number	32,677	11,333	82,116	54,951	489,732	706,666	149,242	150,888	332,669	525,460	7,217	18,034	10,875	2,571,860
rate	6,320	8,220	8,764	7,313	6,493	5,702	12,753	15,159	10,390	12,522	23,125	42,126	36,685	8,051
% change in rate*	1.1	-5.5	1.7	2.9	0.1	-5.1	1.5	-1.9	0.7	0.2	-12.8	11.7	4.4	-1.2

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004 report*, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

2. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

3. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

Crime rates for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, for census metropolitan areas, Canada, 2004^{1,2}

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences		Homicide ³		Robbery		Breaking & entering		Motor vehicle theft	
	Rate	% change in rate*	Number	Rate	Rate	% change in rate	Rate	% change in rate	Rate	% change in rate
CMAs with population of 500,000 and over										
Winnipeg ⁴	12,167	1.9	34	4.9	229	-2.1	1,124	-3.2	1,932	29.8
Vancouver ⁵	11,814	0.2	56	2.6	148	-4.0	1,325	-3.1	1,104	-10.9
Edmonton	11,332	3.0	34	3.4	141	-13.3	1,129	10.6	1,018	6.8
Montréal	8,173	2.7	63	1.7	150	-4.6	894	-3.1	663	-1.5
Calgary	7,101	-3.2	20	1.9	91	-21.3	815	-3.1	457	-16.7
Hamilton ⁶	5,764	-13.0	9	1.3	88	-8.8	680	-16.3	540	-26.8
Ottawa ⁷	5,663	-10.0	10	1.1	84	-15.1	578	-12.5	316	-20.6
Québec	4,997	-0.9	6	0.8	59	0.0	783	-5.2	277	-5.2
Toronto	4,699	-8.6	94	1.8	103	-8.3	449	-15.9	325	-14.7
CMAs with population between 100,000 and 500,000										
Regina	15,430	2.4	10	5.0	211	-7.4	2,112	3.0	1,351	0.7
Saskatoon	13,767	-9.1	8	3.3	209	-31.5	1,797	-12.0	590	-20.5
Abbotsford	13,252	-1.2	7	4.4	97	-15.7	1,390	3.7	1,529	-3.7
Victoria	10,309	-2.2	5	1.5	76	5.3	935	24.2	336	9.8
Halifax	9,924	5.0	9	2.4	161	14.6	957	6.2	540	22.5
Thunder Bay	9,226	8.2	0	0.0	85	31.3	865	-13.2	323	18.6
Windsor	7,676	4.0	4	1.2	70	22.5	922	27.7	455	21.5
London	7,335	-3.0	5	1.1	70	19.8	732	-16.8	611	5.2
Saint John	7,056	-8.3	1	0.7	63	54.0	679	-15.0	135	-42.8
Kingston	7,010	2.6	0	0.0	49	40.0	647	-8.3	233	-6.8
St. John's	6,787	4.2	1	0.6	50	89.7	1,149	33.7	325	103.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	6,222	-9.0	7	1.6	63	-13.6	737	-18.4	354	-13.5
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	6,188	-4.7	0	0.0	41	-7.0	851	-14.1	489	-7.1
Sherbrooke	6,094	-9.0	0	0.0	49	-13.1	855	-22.7	526	-21.7
Gatineau ⁸	5,909	-4.9	1	0.4	59	2.9	928	-12.7	304	-12.7
Kitchener	5,887	-0.2	6	1.3	80	27.7	738	2.0	459	9.8
Trois-Rivières	4,787	-9.9	1	0.7	45	40.9	692	-16.5	367	-2.0
Saguenay	4,079	-2.4	2	1.3	18	3.8	542	-14.2	337	-1.8

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on un-rounded rates.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

3. Due to small numbers and populations in some CMAs, homicide rates often have large year-to-year fluctuations. As such, % changes are not presented here.

4. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

5. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years.

Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

6. One homicide in Hamilton occurred in a correctional facility.

7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

8. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Crime rates for the 30 largest municipal police services¹, by type of incident, Canada, 2004

Police Service	Population ²	Total Criminal Code offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other Criminal Code offences	
		Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*
Toronto CMA Police Services⁴									
Toronto Police	2,603,182	5,522	-7.4	998	-1.9	3,042	-8.1	1,482	-9.3
Peel Regional Police	1,108,112	3,544	-6.9	460	-7.1	2,138	-6.7	946	-7.4
York Regional Police	889,002	3,892	-13.6	435	-7.0	2,240	-15.1	1,216	-12.8
Durham Regional Police ⁵	563,220	5,530	-2.5	644	-5.1	2,544	-5.6	2,342	1.8
Halton Regional Police ⁵	427,219	3,891	-9.5	425	-7.9	1,967	-14.4	1,499	-2.8
Montréal CMA Police Services⁴									
Montréal Police	1,877,192	10,974	5.9	1,066	-1.0	4,456	-3.2	5,452	16.4
Longueuil Police	383,831	6,797	1.6	775	-5.1	3,843	4.0	2,178	0.0
Laval Police	364,806	5,530	-3.6	652	-0.8	3,284	-4.4	1,593	-3.0
Vancouver CMA Police Services⁴									
Vancouver Police	584,709	13,089	3.1	1,247	3.8	8,481	-0.1	3,361	11.8
Surrey (RCMP) Police	385,110	13,083	-0.2	1,366	9.2	7,654	-8.2	4,063	15.4
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	202,966	13,967	11.8	1,037	5.0	9,067	8.5	3,864	22.6
Richmond (RCMP) Police	172,714	10,360	-5.0	588	-22.5	5,881	-5.5	3,892	-0.8
Other Large Police Services									
Calgary Police	951,634	7,200	-2.6	827	-5.1	4,432	-5.2	1,941	5.4
Ottawa Police	829,578	5,788	-9.7	693	-8.9	3,218	-12.4	1,878	-5.1
Edmonton Police	709,493	12,779	2.7	917	-8.1	7,537	4.8	4,324	1.7
Winnipeg Police ⁶	647,433	12,732	2.3	1,265	-2.5	7,097	5.3	4,370	-0.8
Québec Police	526,991	5,614	0.9	560	4.5	3,313	1.2	1,741	-0.9
Hamilton Regional Police	519,734	6,372	-13.4	867	-17.4	3,594	-14.2	1,911	-9.7
Waterloo Regional Police	475,739	5,867	-0.1	617	9.7	3,547	-2.5	1,703	1.6
Niagara Regional Police	431,265	6,191	-8.6	545	-7.4	3,330	-11.0	2,316	-5.1
London Police	356,436	8,078	-2.6	754	8.2	4,484	-7.6	2,841	3.5
Gatineau-Métro Police	231,788	6,220	-5.2	946	8.4	3,529	-2.8	1,746	-15.1
Windsor Police	221,463	9,911	6.0	881	0.3	5,706	8.4	3,325	3.7
Halifax Regional Police	212,638	12,724	5.6	1,832	-1.3	7,284	10.1	3,608	0.9
Saskatoon Police	201,929	15,461	-8.9	1,744	-10.3	7,713	-13.8	6,005	-1.3
Regina Police	182,398	16,360	2.6	1,670	0.8	8,967	-2.3	5,724	12.2
St. John's (RNC) Police	178,629	6,787	4.2	832	4.8	4,180	10.4	1,775	-8.1
Greater Sudbury Police	160,839	6,188	-4.7	730	-3.2	3,581	-2.6	1,876	-9.1
Saguenay Police	148,260	4,079	-2.4	498	-1.1	2,251	-6.7	1,329	5.2
Région Sherbrooke Police	147,063	6,138	-8.4	589	-1.0	3,258	-15.3	2,291	1.5

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on non-rounded rates.

1. Data in this table include all incidents reported within the jurisdiction of each police force, including incidents such as counterfeiting currency which may have been handled by other police services.

2. Police Service population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

4. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver CMAs do not represent all the police services in the CMA.

5. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police, and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

6. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 6

Youths accused of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada¹

	2003 ²				2004				% change in rate* 2003-2004
	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	
Population (aged 12-17)			2,535,053				2,547,801		
Homicide	56	1	57	2	40	0	40	2	-30.2
Attempted murder	66	0	66	3	48	3	51	2	-23.1
Assault - Total	14,452	15,828	30,280	1,194	14,268	15,460	29,728	1,167	-2.3
Level 1	9,273	13,881	23,154	913	9,137	13,375	22,512	884	-3.3
Level 2-Weapon	4,728	1,915	6,643	262	4,715	2,054	6,769	266	1.4
Level 3-Aggravated	451	32	483	19	416	31	447	18	-7.9
Other assaults	1,089	264	1,353	53	1,176	303	1,479	58	8.8
Sexual assault - Total	1,456	1,403	2,859	113	1,373	1,481	2,854	112	-0.7
Level 1	1,407	1,397	2,804	111	1,322	1,473	2,795	110	-0.8
Level 2-Weapon	36	5	41	2	37	6	43	2	4.4
Level 3-Aggravated	13	1	14	1	14	2	16	1	13.7
Other sexual offences	128	155	283	11	124	169	293	12	3.0
Abduction	1	2	3	0	2	2	4	0	32.7
Robbery - Total	3,186	562	3,748	148	3,051	636	3,687	145	-2.1
Firearms	279	24	303	12	247	20	267	10	-12.3
Other weapons	1,129	130	1,259	50	1,106	157	1,263	50	-0.2
No weapons	1,778	408	2,186	86	1,698	459	2,157	85	-1.8
Violent crimes - Total	20,434	18,215	38,649	1,525	20,082	18,054	38,136	1,497	-1.8
Breaking & entering - Total	10,985	6,744	17,729	699	9,811	6,649	16,460	646	-7.6
Residential	6,471	3,704	10,175	401	5,591	3,712	9,303	365	-9.0
Business	3,459	2,121	5,580	220	3,402	2,094	5,496	216	-2.0
Other	1,055	919	1,974	78	818	843	1,661	65	-16.3
Motor vehicle theft	4,857	2,328	7,185	283	4,357	2,070	6,427	252	-11.0
Theft over \$5,000	236	167	403	16	169	163	332	13	-18.0
Theft \$5,000 and under	11,888	33,350	45,238	1,784	9,932	31,156	41,088	1,613	-9.6
Possession of stolen goods	4,839	1,960	6,799	268	4,817	2,441	7,258	285	6.2
Fraud	1,385	1,352	2,737	108	1,231	1,434	2,665	105	-3.1
Property crimes - Total	34,190	45,901	80,091	3,159	30,317	43,913	74,230	2,913	-7.8
Mischief	5,419	18,690	24,109	951	5,540	18,673	24,213	950	-0.1
Counterfeiting currency	267	274	541	21	218	277	495	19	-9.0
Bail violations	11,268	847	12,115	478	11,274	981	12,255	481	0.6
Disturbing the peace	580	6,165	6,745	266	692	6,425	7,117	279	5.0
Offensive weapons	1,485	1,789	3,274	129	1,607	1,794	3,401	133	3.4
Prostitution	36	50	86	3	34	36	70	3	-19.0
Arson	574	905	1,479	58	487	993	1,480	58	-0.4
Other	8,810	10,163	18,973	748	7,849	10,157	18,006	707	-5.6
Other Criminal Code offences - Total	28,439	38,883	67,322	2,656	27,701	39,336	67,037	2,631	-0.9
Criminal Code (excluding traffic) - Total	83,063	102,999	186,062	7,340	78,100	101,303	179,403	7,041	-4.1

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

r revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2003; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

2. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7

Youths accused¹ of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2004²

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. ³	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population (aged 12-17)	40,911	12,188	74,515	57,782	566,621	994,376	101,981	90,988	275,210	322,162	2,923	4,319	3,825	2,547,801
Homicide number	0	0	0	0	3	16	11	1	6	3	0	0	0	40
rate	0	0	0	0	1	2	11	1	2	1	0	0	0	2
% change in rate*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault (levels 1, 2, 3) number	536	70	1,235	697	4,860	10,767	2,018	2,308	3,416	3,180	85	329	227	29,728
rate	1,310	574	1,657	1,206	858	1,083	1,979	2,537	1,241	987	2,908	7,618	5,935	1,167
% change in rate*	-11.9	-50.4	-11.6	0.1	-1.7	3.4	5.2	3.2	-8.7	-15.7	-3.8	48.7	14.2	-2.3
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3) number	40	10	56	57	544	1,376	140	134	236	221	5	15	20	2,854
rate	98	82	75	99	96	138	137	147	86	69	171	347	523	112
% change in rate*	-18.9	-22.7	-15.7	-11.2	7.9	5.3	-4.3	-23.5	3.5	-17.6	64.2	-29.9	-26.6	-0.7
Robbery number	16	1	87	23	566	1,871	244	285	295	285	5	8	1	3,687
rate	39	8	117	40	100	188	239	313	107	88	171	185	26	145
% change in rate*	18.1	0.5	-8.6	1.2	-13.1	7.8	18.6	-1.1	-34.1	-3.1	-38.4	684.8	...	-2.1
Violent crimes - Total number	611	88	1,446	825	6,374	14,619	2,543	2,907	4,138	3,859	98	366	260	38,134
rate	1,493	722	1,941	1,428	1,125	1,470	2,494	3,195	1,504	1,198	3,353	8,474	6,797	1,497
% change in rate*	-11.6	-44.4	-10.7	-1.8	-1.7	4.1	7.0	2.0	-10.4	-14.2	-12.3	39.2	8.7	-1.8
Breaking & entering number	553	49	618	475	2,432	4,407	1,296	2,165	2,237	1,479	59	316	374	16,460
rate	1,352	402	829	822	429	443	1,271	2,379	813	459	2,018	7,317	9,778	646
% change in rate*	-0.8	-36.8	-9.8	14.5	-8.3	-4.1	1.9	-5.0	-13.9	-17.2	-38.8	1.0	-12.8	-7.6
Motor vehicle theft number	165	24	223	165	948	1,544	746	954	851	638	15	84	70	6,427
rate	403	197	299	286	167	155	732	1,048	309	198	513	1,945	1,830	252
% change in rate*	65.6	14.9	17.1	32.5	-12.8	-20.7	-11.0	7.2	-21.7	-14.3	111.1	-7.4	-7.5	-11.0
Other theft number	593	162	1,096	800	5,769	14,955	2,091	3,271	6,496	5,645	120	302	120	41,420
rate	1,449	1,329	1,471	1,385	1,018	1,504	2,050	3,595	2,360	1,752	4,105	6,992	3,137	1,626
% change in rate*	-8.9	-14.7	-19.0	-9.5	-11.4	-6.6	-3.4	-1.9	-12.4	-16.5	-17.9	78.5	-35.4	-9.7
Property crimes - Total number	1,416	264	2,515	1,590	10,000	25,713	4,482	7,123	10,963	8,641	212	735	576	74,230
rate	3,461	2,166	3,375	2,752	1,765	2,586	4,395	7,829	3,984	2,682	7,253	17,018	15,059	2,913
% change in rate*	1.1	-14.4	-9.6	2.7	-10.3	-3.6	-3.1	-2.9	-13.7	-15.3	-18.4	20.8	-18.0	-7.8
Offensive weapons number	14	1	67	31	143	1,447	271	230	490	691	0	10	6	3,401
rate	34	8	90	54	25	146	266	253	178	214	0	232	157	133
% change in rate*	-14.9	0.0	-29.6	-4.9	-17.7	16.3	4.6	3.5	-14.2	7.3	-100.0	63.5	-33.9	3.4
Mischief number	583	134	1,143	857	2,486	6,669	1,532	2,711	3,911	3,402	141	400	244	24,213
rate	1,425	1,099	1,534	1,483	439	671	1,502	2,980	1,421	1,056	4,824	9,261	6,379	950
% change in rate*	-10.7	-15.3	-5.2	50.9	-22.1	12.7	9.7	9.2	-0.2	-12.5	-5.5	6.6	4.7	-0.1
Other Criminal Code offenses - Total number	1,301	267	2,676	1,949	6,697	20,497	4,476	7,426	10,387	9,529	366	913	553	67,037
rate	3,180	2,191	3,591	3,373	1,182	2,061	4,389	8,162	3,774	2,958	12,521	21,139	14,458	2,631
% change in rate*	-11.6	-17.4	-12.8	33.9	-12.7	7.8	7.4	1.5	-3.6	-9.4	17.0	18.2	1.7	-0.9
Criminal Code - Total - (excluding traffic) number	3,328	619	6,637	4,364	23,071	60,829	11,501	17,456	25,488	22,029	676	2,014	1,389	179,401
rate	8,135	5,079	8,907	7,553	4,072	6,117	11,278	19,185	9,261	6,838	23,127	46,631	36,314	7,041
% change in rate*	-6.6	-21.6	-11.2	13.5	-8.8	1.9	3.0	-0.2	-9.3	-12.7	-1.2	22.5	-6.5	-4.1

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Youths accused equals the total of youths cleared by charge and youths cleared otherwise (e.g. by diversion).

2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2004* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2004.

3. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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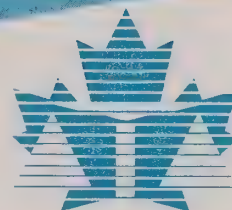
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Homicide in Canada, 2004

by Mia Dauvergne, Homicide Survey manager

OCT 20 2005

Highlights

- After reaching its lowest point in more than three decades in 2003, the 2004 national homicide rate jumped 12% to 1.95 victims per 100,000 population.
- Canadian police services reported 622 homicides in 2004, 73 more than the previous year. The most substantial increases in the number of homicides occurred in Alberta (+22), British Columbia (+18) and Quebec (+12).
- The rate in Manitoba (4.27) rose by 15%, resulting in the highest rate among the provinces, followed by Saskatchewan (3.92). The lowest rates were in the four Atlantic provinces.
- Increases were reported in most of Canada's largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs), notably Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary and Montréal. Winnipeg (4.89) recorded the highest rate among the nine largest CMAs and Regina recorded the highest homicide rate among all CMAs (4.98).
- As in previous years, most homicides reported in 2004 were committed by someone known to the victim. Among solved homicides, 50% were committed by an acquaintance, 35% by a family member and 15% by a stranger.
- There were 74 spousal homicides reported in 2004, 4 fewer than in 2003, resulting in the third consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. The 2004 spousal homicide rate against women was five times higher than the rate for men. Homicides committed by other intimate partners (such as boyfriends or girlfriends) doubled from 11 in 2003 to 22 in 2004.
- Stabbings accounted for one-third of all killings, the most common method used in 2004. There were 205 stabbings, 63 more than in 2003 and the highest number in more than a decade. Firearms were used in a little more than one-quarter of all homicides, similar to the proportion seen in previous years.
- Police reported 18 homicides against prostitutes in 2004, 11 of whom were killed as a direct result of their profession. In addition, there were 100 homicides against those involved in other illegal "occupations" (such as gang members, drug dealers or traffickers), 81 of whom were killed as a result of their activities.
- In 2004, two-thirds of adult accused and just over one-half of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide had a criminal record in Canada. Half of all adult victims and close to one-quarter of youth victims also had a criminal record.
- The total number of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide fell from 57 in 2003 to 40 in 2004. The rate of youth accused was at its second lowest point in more than 30 years.
- Two-thirds of homicide victims in 2004 were male, similar to the proportion reported in previous years. Males also accounted for 90% of accused persons, with the highest rate occurring among males aged 18 to 24 years.
- As in previous years, most homicides occurred when the victim (55%) or the accused (73%) had consumed alcohol and/or drugs.



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Introduction

There are four types of *Criminal Code* offences that are associated with homicide: first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.¹ As part of the Homicide Survey,² the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects detailed police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada.

Homicide is regarded as a distinct form of crime for several reasons. First, it is considered to be the most serious of all criminal acts. Second, homicide is more likely than most other crimes to be discovered by police and to be the subject of thorough investigation. Third, unlike other crimes, the definition of homicide tends to be fairly consistent across nations. Thus, homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but because it is a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

This *Juristat* examines homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Information describing the characteristics associated with the methods used to commit homicide (including the use of firearms), accused-victim relationships (such as spousal or other family-related homicides), gang-related homicides, victims' involvement in illegal activities, the use of alcohol and drugs and youth homicides is also presented. This report also presents a detailed profile of all 2004 homicides in Canada according to the relationship, motivation and location of each incident.

General trends

Homicide rate jumps in 2004

Canadian police services reported a total of 622 homicides in 2004 (73 more than the previous year) (Table 1). The national homicide rate of 1.95 victims per 100,000 population jumped by 12%, after reaching its lowest point in more than 30 years in 2003 (Table 2).

The majority of the increase in the number of homicides took place in Canada's major census metropolitan areas (CMAs):³ Winnipeg (+16), Edmonton (+12), Vancouver (+11), Calgary (+9) and Montréal (+7).

Despite the increase, homicides continue to represent a small proportion of all crime known to police (0.2%). Compared to other types of violence, homicides are relatively rare – in 2004, there were 717 attempted murders (up slightly from 707 in 2003), about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 230,000 other assaults.⁴

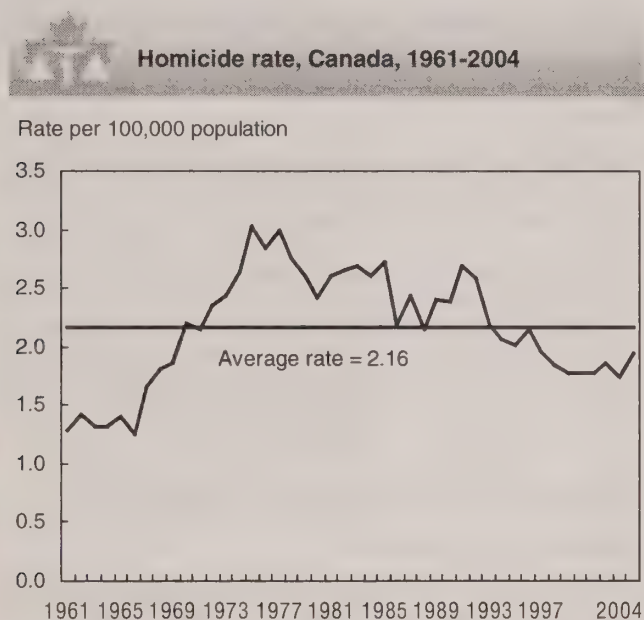
Homicides account for a comparatively small proportion of deaths in Canada. In 2002 (the latest year for which figures are available), more than 65,000 people died from

1. For definitions of homicide charges, see the Glossary of Terms section at the end of this report. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change may not be reflected in this report.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police services serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these services difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police service is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.
4. Sauvé, J. (2005). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 25, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

cancer and more than 50,000 people died from heart disease. Nearly 3,700 people committed suicide and about 3,000 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents.⁵

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled over the next ten years, reaching a peak of 3.03 homicide victims (per 100,000 population) in 1975. Since 1975, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually declined (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Canada's homicide rate similar to Finland

Canada's 2004 homicide rate was close to that of Finland (Text table)⁶. As in previous years, the rate in Canada was about three times lower than the rate in the United States,⁷ but higher than the rates in many other countries such as France, Scotland, Australia and Japan.

Geographical patterns

Homicide rates highest in the west

Historically, homicide rates have generally been lower in the eastern provinces than those in the west (Table 2). The 2004 provincial distribution of homicides mirrored this pattern observed in previous years.

Text table

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2003

Country	Rate per 100,000 population
South Africa	44.10
Russia	19.82
United States ¹	5.70
Turkey	5.57
Hungary	2.22
Armenia	2.00
Finland	1.98
Canada²	1.95
Poland ²	1.70
France	1.65
England & Wales ³	1.62
Northern Ireland	1.53
Australia	1.51
Denmark	1.21
Greece	1.12
Spain	1.10
Germany	0.99
Switzerland	0.99
Scotland	0.64
Japan	0.51

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

2. Figures reflect 2004 data.

3. Based upon 2003/2004 fiscal year data from Research Development & Statistics (CRCSG) Home Office. "Crime Statistics for England and Wales, 2003-2004". London, England.

Source: National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.

The four Atlantic provinces recorded the lowest rates in Canada (Figure 2). There were no homicides in Prince Edward Island and the rates in the other three provinces were well below the national average. The rates in Quebec and Ontario were similar and also below the national average.

As has been the case historically, the four western provinces reported homicide rates that were above the national average. The rate in Manitoba (4.27) increased by 15% from 2003, resulting in the highest rate among the provinces and its second highest rate since 1961. Saskatchewan (3.92), although reporting a slight decline in 2004, recorded the second highest rate among the provinces.

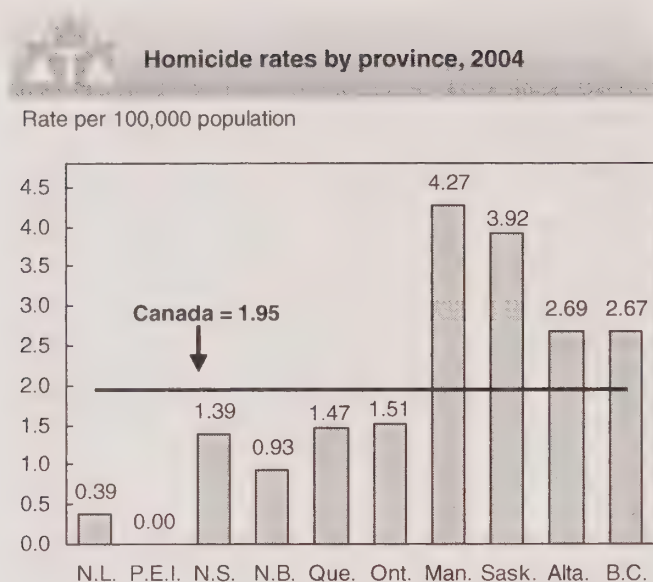
The rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to be higher than the provinces, although the actual number of homicides is consistently low. Moreover, because of their relatively small populations, minor changes in the number of homicides cause the rates to fluctuate considerably. In 2004, the rates in all three territories ranged from 9.34 to 22.43, far greater than the rest of Canada.

5. Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database, 2002.

6. International data are based upon the most recent figures available from the National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.

7. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

Figure 2



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Homicide rates increased in a number of Canada's largest CMAs

Violent crime, and particularly homicide, is often considered to be a phenomenon of large urban areas. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as non-CMA areas typically report a homicide rate similar to those in census metropolitan areas (CMAs). In fact, in 2004, areas with populations less than 100,000 reported a combined rate (2.01) that was actually higher than Canada's CMAs as a whole (1.91).

Table 3 divides the CMAs into two major population categories. The first category is comprised of Canada's nine largest CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these large urban centres have tended to report higher rates of homicide than the smaller CMAs. This trend continued in 2004 with the combined rate in the larger CMAs (2.03) being higher than the combined rate in the smaller CMAs (1.51).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs recorded 57 more homicides in 2004, a 21% increase from 2003. None of the major CMAs reported a notable decline in homicide – the 2004 homicide rates either increased from the previous year or remained about the same.

With almost double the number of homicides in 2004 compared to 2003 (34 versus 18), Winnipeg recorded the highest rate (4.89). The rate in Winnipeg was at its highest point since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981. A firearm was used in one-third (32%) or 11 of the 34 homicides, 8 more than the previous year and more than any number reported since 1981.

Substantial increases were also reported in Calgary, Edmonton (whose rate of 3.39 was at its highest point in more than a decade) and Vancouver.⁸ The rate in Toronto (1.80), Canada's largest CMA, has remained fairly constant over the past 10 years.

The second CMA category is comprised of the 19 smaller-sized urban areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000. It should be noted that, because of the small number of homicides in these communities and their relatively small populations, a minor change in the number of homicides in these areas will have a large impact on the rates.

As a group, these 19 smaller CMAs reported virtually the same number of homicides in 2004 as in 2003. The highest rates were recorded in Regina (4.98) and Abbotsford (4.39). There were no homicides in Greater Sudbury or Thunder Bay for the first time since 1981. There were also no homicides in Kingston or Sherbrooke.

Non-CMAs, comprised of areas with less than 100,000 people, reported 223 homicides in 2004, a 7% increase from 2003 but only slightly higher than the previous 10-year average.

Table 4 shows the distribution of homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of Canada's largest municipal police services. This table illustrates how homicide rates can vary within a CMA. In general, homicide rates tend to be higher among those police services that include inner city areas compared to those that are strictly suburban and/or rural areas.

Methods used to commit homicide

Stabbings rise in 2004

Over the years, the primary method used to commit homicide has varied between stabbings and shootings (Table 5, Figure 3). In 2004, the most common method used was stabbings, accounting for one-third (33%) of all homicides. Although the proportion remained relatively constant compared to previous years, the number of stabbings rose in 2004 to 205, a 44% increase from 2003 and the highest number in more than a decade.

A little more than one-quarter (28%) of homicides were committed with a firearm, similar to the proportion seen over the past 10 years. In comparison, two-thirds (67%) of all homicide victims in the United States were killed with a firearm in 2003 (the latest year for which figures are available).⁹

Another 22% of victims were beaten to death, 10% were strangled or suffocated and 2% were killed with fire (smoke

8. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 and 7 homicides included in the total for 2003 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

9. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

Homicide rates in Canadian CMAs lower than in the U.S.

Canadian rates of homicide among areas with populations of 690,000 or greater, by census metropolitan area, 2004

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Population	Homicide rate
Québec	714,303	0.8
Ottawa	873,397	1.1
Hamilton	691,088	1.3
Montréal	3,633,264	1.7
Toronto	5,211,843	1.8
Calgary	1,049,006	1.9
Vancouver	2,173,679	2.6
Edmonton	1,003,399	3.4
Winnipeg	695,187	4.9

Homicide rates among Canada's nine largest CMAs tend to be lower when compared to the rates in the major U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)¹. In 2003 (the latest year for which published data are available), there were 59 MSAs in the U.S. in which the population was 690,000 or greater (equal to or greater than the population in Canada's largest CMAs). The table below presents the ten MSAs with the lowest rates of homicide alongside the ten MSAs with the highest rates.

The rates among the two largest MSAs, New York and Los Angeles (whose populations when combined are similar to Canada as a whole), were both above all of Canada's CMAs (5.2 and 8.7 per 100,000 population respectively).

U.S. rates of homicide among areas with populations of 690,000 or greater, by metropolitan statistical area¹, 2003

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	Population	Homicide rate	Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	Population	Homicide rate
10 Lowest homicide rates in the U.S.			10 Highest homicide rates in the U.S.		
Honolulu, HI	905,301	1.7	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1,319,270	25.5
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,453,436	1.9	Richmond, VA	1,140,589	13.6
Worcester, MA	770,995	1.9	Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,626,193	13.0
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	2,037,963	2.0	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,239,073	12.3
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	760,286	2.4	Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	1,569,549	11.0
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	1,620,073	2.5	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	1,071,569	10.5
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	883,882	2.5	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,497,319	10.0
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	1,757,692	2.8	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3,579,924	9.2
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	760,075	2.9	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	5,067,631	9.1
Akron, OH	701,158	2.9	Jacksonville, FL	1,199,156	8.9

1. A metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is similar to a census metropolitan area (CMA). An MSA refers to a principal city or urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants. MSAs include the county that contains the principal city and other adjacent counties that have, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, a high degree of economic and social integration with the principal city and county as measured through commuting. Counties in an MSA are considered metropolitan. Additionally, MSAs may cross state boundaries.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

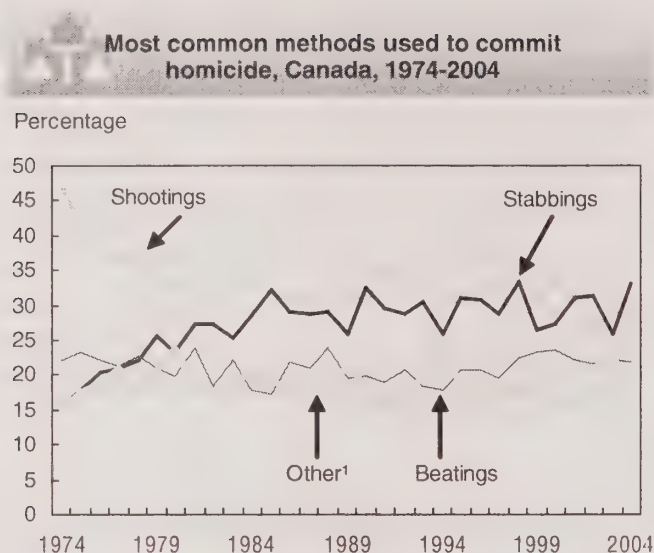
inhalation or burns). Poisoning, deaths caused by shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) and deaths caused by motor vehicles each accounted for 1% of all homicides; less than 1% were the result of other causes and 2% were unknown.

Firearm-related homicides actually account for a relatively small proportion of all fatalities involving firearms. According to 2002 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 816 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (78%) were due to suicide, 17% to homicide and 4% to accidental discharge. The remaining 2% were due to legal intervention or undetermined intent.¹⁰

Over the past decade, the highest rates of firearm-related homicide have tended to occur in British Columbia. However, in 2004, the rate in British Columbia (0.93 per 100,000 population) was lower than that reported in Manitoba (1.11 per 100,000 population). With 13 firearm-related homicides, the rate in Manitoba was the highest among the provinces and almost three times higher than its previous 10-year average (Table 6). For the third consecutive year, the rate of firearm-related homicides in Quebec was much lower than the rate previously recorded in that province.

10. Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database, 2002.

Figure 3



1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Two-thirds of firearm-related homicides involved handguns

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were used far more commonly than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. In 2004, handguns accounted for almost two-thirds (65%) of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns accounted for about one in five (22%) (Table 7). Another 9% of homicides were committed with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 1% with a fully automatic firearm and the remaining 4% with another type of firearm.

Most firearms used to commit homicide are not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began to collect supplemental information on firearm-related homicides including: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid firearms license by the accused, firearm status (lost, stolen or missing) and classification of the weapon (restricted/prohibited). It is important to note that a substantial portion of firearm-related information has been reported to the Homicide Survey as "unknown" by police either because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going. The following analysis refers only to homicides where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

The available data suggest that most firearms used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused persons were not licensed firearm users. Studies in Australia and England and Wales have found similar results.¹¹ Between 1997 and

Firearm Legislation

Firearm licensing and registration in Canada originated in the late 19th century. In 1892, the first firearm laws were introduced requiring owners of pistols to carry a certificate of exemption. In 1919 and 1920, it became a criminal offence for anyone to purchase a firearm without first having a firearms permit. In 1934, a centralized registry was established which required all handguns to be registered and, in 1951, automatic firearms were added to the category of firearms to be registered.

In 1969, Parliament enacted Bill C-150 and amended the Criminal Code which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm" which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories. All weapons falling within the "restricted weapons" category were made subject to registration requirements while possession of a "prohibited weapon" was made an offence for anyone not falling within certain exempted classes such as military personnel or peace officers.

In 1977, Parliament enacted Bill C-51 and amended the Criminal Code requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors. Mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms were also introduced.

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, photograph, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated. The minimum age of applicants was raised to 18 years and the powers of police and firearms officers to conduct background checks on applicants were enhanced.

In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created a scheme to control the acquisition, possession, use, transfer, manufacture, distribution, import and export of all types of weapons, but principally firearms and ammunition. Universal licensing came into effect on January 1, 2001 requiring all persons to have a valid license in order to own, possess or register a firearm or to purchase ammunition. As of January 1, 2003, all firearms (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns) had to be registered. In addition, strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms were created.

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1974 and 2004, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates.

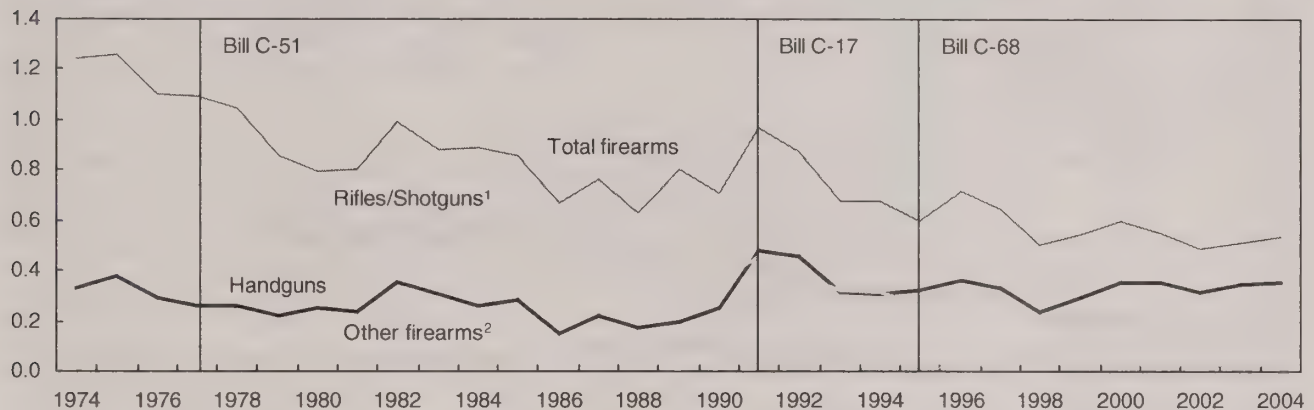
2004 in Canada, firearm-related information on registration status, licensing and ownership was reported as unknown by police among more than half of all homicides.¹² Among those homicides where detailed firearm information was known,

11. Mouzos, J. (2000). "The licensing and registration status of firearms used in homicide". *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*. Australian Institute of Criminology. No. 151.
12. Among the 1,349 firearm-related homicides between 1997 and 2004, police reported registration status as unknown for 748 homicides, licensing information as unknown for 744 homicides and ownership information as unknown for 823 homicides.

Figure 4

Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1974-2004

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates. See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

84% were not registered and four out of every five (79%) accused persons did not possess a valid firearms license. Where ownership of the firearm could be determined by police, the accused owned the firearm in 61% of these homicides, compared to 7% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (31%).

Accused-victim relationship

Most victims knew their killer

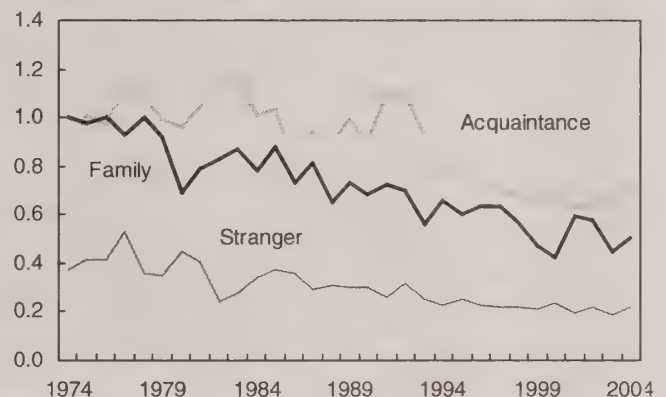
Analysis of the information on accused-victim relationship is limited to those homicides in which an accused person has been identified (i.e. solved cases). Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger (Figure 5). Among solved homicides in 2004, 85% of victims knew their killer. Half (50%) of the victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family), another one-third (35%) were killed by a family member and 15% of victims were killed by strangers (Table 8).

Of those victims killed by an acquaintance, half (50%) of the 230 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. Another 15% of victims were killed by a close friend and 17% were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

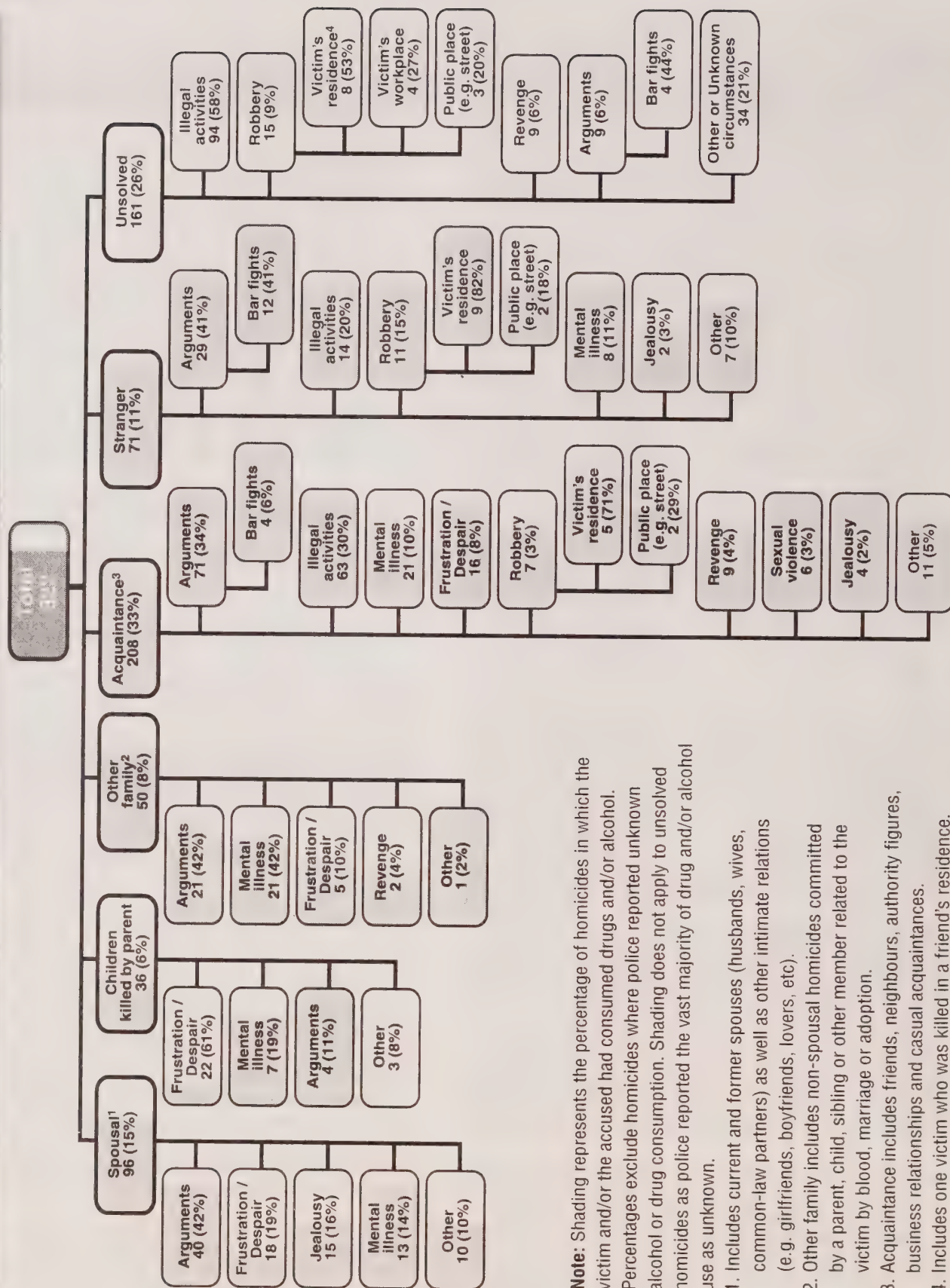
Figure 5

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1974-2004

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.



Note: Shading represents the percentage of homicides in which the victim and/or the accused had consumed drugs and/or alcohol. Percentages exclude homicides where police reported unknown alcohol or drug consumption. Shading does not apply to unsolved homicides as police reported the vast majority of drug and/or alcohol use as unknown.

1. Includes current and former spouses (husbands, wives, common-law partners) as well as other intimate relations (e.g. girlfriends, boyfriends, lovers, etc).
2. Other family includes non-spousal homicides committed by a parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.
3. Acquaintance includes friends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships and casual acquaintances.
4. Includes one victim who was killed in a friend's residence.

A profile of homicide in Canada, 2004

In order to provide a visual representation on the nature of homicide in Canada, a special study was undertaken to categorize homicides. Using data from the 2004 survey year, the categories were developed from police-reported information that was provided to CCJS as part of the standard questions on the Homicide Survey in conjunction with the supplemental information contained in the narratives (detailed summaries of each homicide incident).

It is important to note that because many factors are involved in the commission of a homicide, it is possible to categorize homicides in multiple ways. For example, a homicide that was committed by someone who was mentally ill during the course of an argument could be classified in two different ways (mental illness or argument). However, for the purposes of this analysis, each homicide was reviewed and categorized only once according to the circumstances surrounding the incident.¹

The first step in the development of the groupings was to categorize each homicide according to the relationship between the accused and the victim. Next, homicides that were committed by an accused person who was mentally ill and those that were committed during the course of illegal activities were identified and classified as such. The remaining homicides were categorized according to the most salient factor that motivated the incident. In some cases (i.e. robberies and arguments) sub-categories were developed based upon the location of the incident.

While classifying the homicides, it became apparent that there was one particular characteristic that was pervasive throughout all types of homicide: the use of alcohol and/or drugs by the accused and/or the victim. As such, in order to demonstrate its prevalence, each box has been shaded according to the percentage of homicides that involved alcohol and/or drugs (unknowns were excluded). The use of intoxicants was particularly prevalent among homicides that stemmed from an argument, independent of the relationship between the victim and the accused.

This process further showed that the categories that involved family members or intimate partner relationships differed from those that involved acquaintances or strangers. The one category that was common to all homicides, regardless of the relationship, was arguments, particularly those that involved alcohol and/or drug consumption.

Family-related and intimate partner homicides

In addition to arguments involving alcohol and/or drug use, family-related and intimate partner homicides were often motivated by the accused person's feelings of frustration, despair and jealousy. Examples include parents who were overwhelmed with caring for their young children, relationships that were in the process of terminating or intimate partners who were in a jealous state.

Mental illness also stood out as a common characteristic among family-related and intimate partner homicides, particularly homicides involving non-intimate family relationships, such as grown children killing their parents.

Acquaintance and stranger homicides

While arguments involving alcohol and/or drug use were the most common characteristic of homicides against acquaintances and strangers, those that involved illegal activities occurred almost as frequently. These homicides typically involved gang-related activities, drug dealing or prostitution.

Robberies were another category of homicides committed by acquaintances or strangers. Including those that were unsolved, there were 33 homicides that were motivated by robbery, two-thirds (22 or 67%) of which occurred in the victim's own home. More than half of the robbery-homicides that occurred in the victim's home were committed against persons aged 60 years or older (12 or 55%).

A number of homicides were committed by mentally ill people against casual acquaintances. Examples of this type of homicide included those that involved persons suffering from schizophrenia or older adults with dementia who were living in residential institutions and killed a housemate.

Bar fights were identified as a sub-category from arguments. This type of homicide involved individuals who, while attending a bar or a nightclub or shortly after leaving (e.g. in the parking lot), engaged in an altercation that ended in homicide. Including those that were unsolved, there were 20 such homicides.

Previous research has shown homelessness to be associated with hate crimes, interpersonal violence and death.² Including those that were unsolved, there were 7 homicides committed against homeless persons, four of whom were killed by a stranger; three were unsolved by police.

Unsolved homicides

The homicides listed under the unsolved column were classified according to the evidence derived from police investigation. Homicides that were the result of illegal activities comprised the majority of this category.

1. The method used in this study involved the creation of mutually exclusive categories whereas the usual method of presenting homicide data involves overlapping categories. As such, the numbers contained in the diagram may not necessarily correspond to the numbers contained in other sections of this report.
2. National Coalition for the Homeless. "Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A report on hate crimes and violence against people experiencing homelessness, 2004. June 2005.

Family-related homicides increase in 2004

Family-related homicides are those that are committed by a spouse (current or former), parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.¹³ In 2004, almost all categories of family homicide increased from 2003; however, the numbers were similar to the previous 10-year averages. The only category with a substantial drop occurred in the number of separated and divorced wives who were killed by their estranged husbands (from 24 in 2003 to 15 in 2004) (Table 8). This finding is consistent with self-reported decreases in the prevalence of spousal violence by previous partners in general.¹⁴

Spousal homicides continue to decline

Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses). In 2004, there were 74 spousal homicides, 4 fewer than the previous year, resulting in the third consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate (a 16% drop between 2001 to 2004). In 2004, there were no same-sex spousal homicides; since 1997 when this information was first collected, there have been a total of 6.

Despite this decrease, spousal homicides accounted for about 16% of all solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides. As is typically the case, women were much more likely than men to be killed by their spouse – the 2004 spousal homicide rate against females (0.71 per 100,000 female spouses) was 5 times higher than the rate for males (0.14 per 100,000 male spouses) (Figure 6).

Prior research has suggested that those living in common-law relationships are at higher risk of spousal violence compared to those living in legally married relationships.^{14,15} Results from the Homicide Survey lend support to this finding. In 2004, the homicide rate against persons living in common-law relationships (1.09 per 100,000 common-law persons) was almost 5 times higher than the rate for those living in legal marriages (0.24 per 100,000 married persons). Higher spousal homicide rates among common-law relationships versus married unions held true for both male (0.62 and 0.05 respectively) and female victims (1.56 and 0.44 respectively).

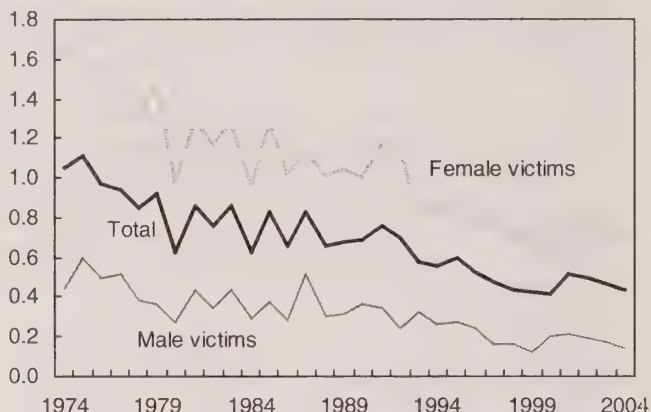
The Homicide Survey asks police respondents to indicate whether there had been a history or pattern of violence among homicides involving family members. The findings suggest that many spousal homicides stemmed from a history of prior abuse. In 2004, police reported a history of family violence among 63% of spousal homicides, similar to the proportion found in earlier years.¹⁶ Prior violence was more often reported when the spousal victim was male (67%) than female (62%).¹⁷

As with the homicide rate in general, spousal homicide tends to be lower in the eastern provinces than in the western provinces. In 2004, with about one spouse killed per 100,000 spouses, the highest rates were recorded in Manitoba (1.01) and Saskatchewan (0.98) (Table 9). The exception was in British Columbia where the number of spousal homicides

Figure 6

Spousal homicide rate¹, Canada, 1974-2004

Rate per 100,000 spouses



1. Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes 6 same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

dropped from 14 in 2003 to 5 in 2004, resulting in the lowest rate (0.22 per 100,000 spouses) in that province since this information became available in 1974. When examining the previous 10-year period, the highest spousal homicide rate was in Saskatchewan (0.76 per 100,000 spouses). It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations.

Contrary to the trend in spousal homicides, those involving other types of intimate partner relationships (e.g. current or former boyfriends and girlfriends) increased in 2004. There were 22 homicides committed by a non-spousal intimate partner (13 female victims and 9 male victims), double the number killed in 2003 but only slightly higher than the previous 10-year average of 18 (Table 8).

13. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see AuCoin, K. (2005). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

14. Mihorean, K. (2005). "Trends in self-reported spousal violence". *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

15. Spousal homicide rates by separated and divorced relationship were not calculated as the available population estimates were not fully consistent with the corresponding relationship types reported by police.

16. Excludes 10 homicides for which police reported history of family violence as unknown.

17. The Homicide Survey does not identify the perpetrator of the violence, only that a history or pattern of violence between the victim and the accused person was present.

Among solved homicides involving victims 15 years and older, half (49%) of all females were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point (either through marriage or dating) compared to 8% of males. Males were far more likely to be killed by an acquaintance or a stranger.

Infants continue to be at highest risk for homicides against children

In 2004, there were 37 homicides perpetrated against children who were less than 12 years of age, an increase from last year but lower than the previous 10-year average (48) (Table 10). As has been the case every year since 1974, infants were at the highest risk for homicide among all child victims. There were 14 babies killed in 2004 – approximately 4 out of every 100,000 infants.

Consistent with previous years, most homicides committed against children in 2004 were perpetrated by parents. Of the 37 child victims, 27 (or 73%) were killed by their mother or father (including step-mother and step-father). In 6 of these incidents, the parent subsequently committed suicide. Fathers and mothers were equally responsible for killing their children in 2004. Of those child homicides committed by a parent, 8 were committed by a father, 5 by a step-father, 13 by a mother and 1 by a mother and step-father.

Of the remaining child homicides, three were committed by another family member and five by a family friend, caregiver or acquaintance. There were no homicides committed against a child that police determined were perpetrated by a stranger. Two were unsolved.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Gang-related homicides decline in 2004

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang (see Glossary section for definitions). Examples include killing a rival gang member over a "turf war" or a drug debt. In fact, 59% of gang-related homicides in 2004 were motivated by the "settling of accounts".¹⁸ Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Collection of gang-related information was standardized on the Homicide Survey in 1991. Since then, the number of gang-related homicides had generally increased from a low of 13 in 1993 to a high of 84 in 2003. However, in 2004, there were 71 victims killed as a result of gang-related activities, 13 fewer than in the previous year (Table 11). Most of the drop in 2004 was the result of a decline in the number of gang-related homicides reported by the Toronto Police Service.¹⁹

The number of gang-related homicides in 2004 rose in Alberta where police reported 15 such killings, almost double the 2003 figure. Since recording began in 1991, there has not been a gang-related homicide reported in any of the Territories.

Compared to other types of homicide, those that are gang-related more often involve firearms. Of the 71 gang-related killings in 2004, 50 (70%) were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun. This figure is more than three times higher than the percentage of non-gang-related killings that were committed with a firearm (22%).

Multiple-victim incidents similar to previous 10-year average

As is the case every year, the vast majority of homicide incidents in 2004 involved one victim (566 or 95%). However, there were 25 incidents that involved two victims and 2 incidents that involved three victims. The 27 multiple-victim incidents were 8 more than last year but similar to the previous 10-year average of 28.

Multiple-victim incidents involve family members more often than single-victim incidents. Among solved multiple-victim incidents in 2004, family members were responsible for killing nearly half (46%) of all victims (compared to 34% of single-victim homicides). Another 39% of victims were killed by an acquaintance²⁰ and the remaining 15% were killed by a stranger. Slightly more than half of the victims were male (55%) and the accused persons were male in all but 4 incidents.

Murder-suicides usually family-related

About 6% of all incidents culminate in the suicide of the accused person. In 2004, there were 34 murder-suicide incidents (involving 43 victims), 4 less than the previous 10-year average of 38.

As in previous years, most murder-suicides in 2004 involved family members or intimate partner relationships motivated by the accused person's feelings of jealousy, frustration, anger or despair. All but one incident involved the accused person killing a family member (e.g. spouse, child), a current or former intimate partner or an ex-partner's new lover.

Mental illness is often reported among persons who commit murder-suicide. In 2004, police reported the presence of a mental disorder (e.g. depression) among almost half (48%) of all persons accused of murder-suicide.²¹

Half of all incidents are first-degree murder

Among the 593 incidents (involving 622 victims)²² in 2004, police classified about half (52%) of all incidents as first degree murder, another 36% as second degree murder and 12% as

18. Excludes 7 victims for which police reported the motive as unknown.

19. In 2003, the Toronto Police undertook a special project to respond to gang violence resulting in 31 homicides being identified as affiliated with gang membership or organized crime (up from 8 in 2002). By 2004, this project had ended.

20. Includes casual acquaintance, friend and criminal relationship.

21. Excludes 9 accused persons for which police reported the presence of a mental disorder as unknown.

22. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

manslaughter. There were only 2 incidents of infanticide. These proportions have remained relatively consistent for more than a decade.

Three-quarters of incidents solved by police

When police investigation leads to the identification of an accused person against whom a charge can be laid, the incident is considered to be solved. An incident may also be solved when it is "cleared otherwise" for circumstances such as the death of the accused. In general, homicide incidents tend to be solved by police at a higher rate compared to other types of violent crime.

In 2004, three-quarters (74%) or 440 of the 593 homicide incidents were solved by police, similar to the rate reported in previous years. It is important to note that the process of solving a homicide is often complex and time-consuming and an incident may not be solved until after it has been reported by police to the Homicide Survey. Therefore, these data likely underestimate final police clearance rates. Should an incident later become solved, this information is updated on the Homicide Survey upon notification by police.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (62%) of homicide incidents in 2004 occurred in a private residence.²³ Among these incidents, 39% occurred in the victim's home and 34% occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by both the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (93%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

The locations of the remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 24% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 7% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bar or restaurant); 4% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi; and 2% in a public institution (high school, hospital or correctional institution).

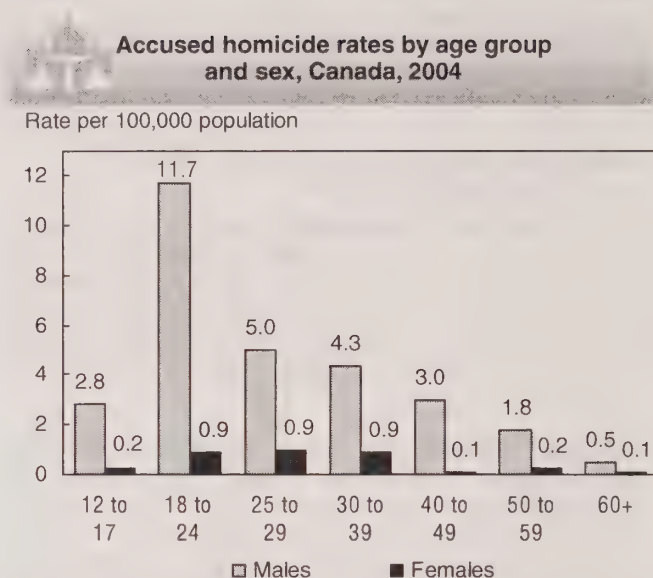
Characteristics of victims and accused

Males accounted for the majority of victims and accused persons

Consistent with previous years, almost 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide were male in 2004 (Table 12). The rate of accused males peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, the rate for female accused was constant for the age groups between 18 and 39 years of age (Figure 7).

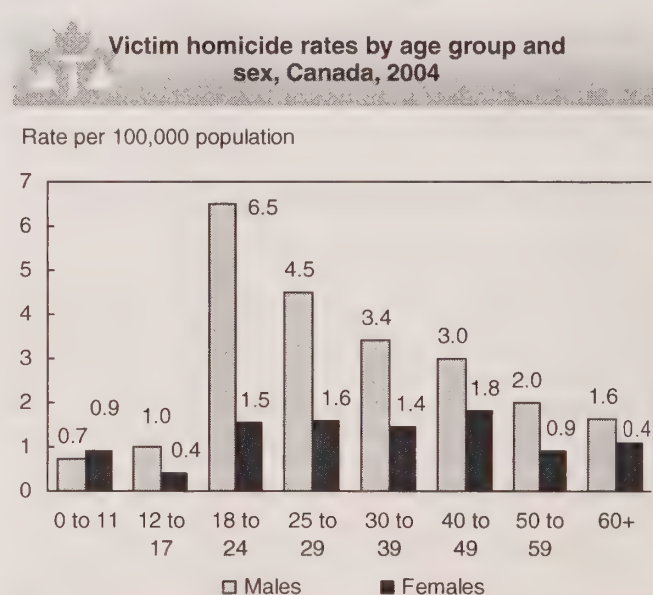
Two-thirds (68%) of homicide victims in 2004 were male – there were 424 male victims and 198 female victims. As with accused persons, the victimization rate for males peaked at 18-24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, female victimization rates remained fairly consistent between 18 and 49 years of age (Figure 8).

Figure 7



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 8



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

23. Excludes 20 incidents for which police reported the specific location of the incident as unknown.

Two-thirds of adult accused and half of all adult victims had a criminal past

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on the criminal history of victims and accused persons. While it is possible for a person to have more than one prior conviction, police are asked only to indicate the most serious.

In 2004, more than two-thirds (68%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record.²⁴ Among those adults with a criminal history, 70% had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 8 for homicide, 51 for robbery and 183 for another type of violent offence. A further 14% of adults with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 4% for a drug conviction and 12% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

As with adults, a substantial proportion of youth accused had a criminal past. Among the 40 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2004, more than half (54%) had a criminal history.²⁵ About two-thirds (65%) of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). Another 15% had a prior conviction for a property offence, 5% for a drug conviction and 15% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence. Male accused, as both adults and youth, were more likely than females to have a criminal past.

Prior contact with the criminal justice system is not limited to accused persons. Half (51%) of all adult homicide victims (18 years or older) had a Canadian criminal record.²⁶ About half (52%) of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 5 for homicide, 30 for robbery and 113 for another violent offence. A further 13% of adult victims with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 12% for a drug conviction and 23% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Of the 18 youth victims (12 to 17 years), 4 (22%) had a previous criminal history. As with accused persons, male victims were more likely than female victims to have a previous criminal conviction for both adults and youth.

Aboriginal people are over-represented as homicide victims and accused

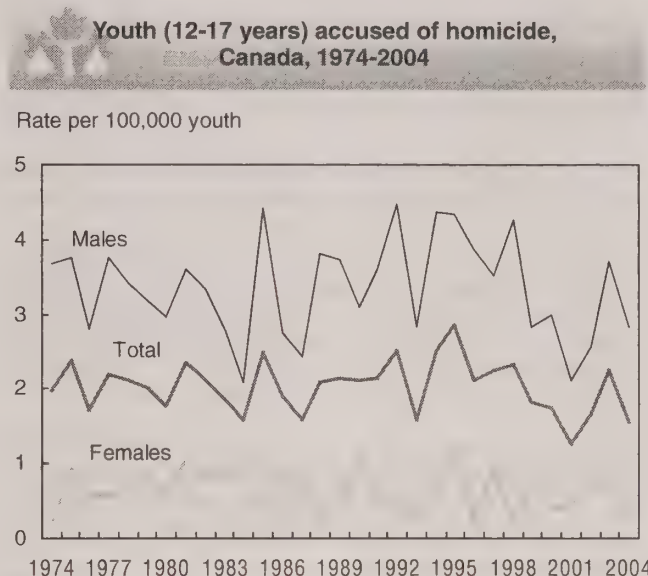
While Aboriginal people account for approximately 3% of the Canadian population, they comprised 17% of victims and 22% of persons accused of committing homicide in 2004. It is important to note that these data exclude those victims and accused persons where police reported Aboriginal status as unknown. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police services (such as the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal status of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey.²⁷ In other cases, this information was not known to police at the time the data were reported. In 2004, Aboriginal origin was reported by police for 56% of victims and 59% of accused.

Youth homicide

Homicides committed by youth decline in 2004

There were 40 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2004, 17 fewer than the previous year (Table 13). The rate of youth accused was at its second lowest point in more than 30 years (Figure 9). The decrease in the number of youth accused of homicide in 2004 coincides with a decline in youth crime overall (-4%), including violent crime (-2%).²⁸

Figure 9



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Among the 40 youth accused, 37 were males and 3 were females. The 37 male youth accused was 11 fewer than the previous year and 6 lower than the previous 10-year average. The 3 female youth accused of homicide was 6 lower than in 2003, matching the lows reached in only six other years since 1971.

24. Excludes 18 accused for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.

25. Excludes 3 accused for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.

26. Excludes 14 victims for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.

27. For more information on the collection of Aboriginal data in Canada, see Kong, R. and Beattie, K. (2005). "Collecting Data on Aboriginal People in the Criminal Justice System: Methods and Challenges". Catalogue 85-564-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

28. Sauvé, J. (2005). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 25, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

In general, most homicides are committed by a single accused. However, homicides committed by youth often involved more than one accused. Of the 32 incidents involving youth, half (16 incidents) were committed by two or more individuals. Comparatively, of the 408 solved incidents committed solely by adults, 12% (50 incidents) involved two or more accused.

Among the 32 victims killed by a youth, 5 were family members, 3 were intimate partners, 17 were acquaintances²⁹ and 7 were strangers. As is the case historically, youth were more likely than adults to kill other youth and young adults. Among solved homicides committed by youth in 2004, two-thirds of victims were between 14 and 24 years of age compared to 17% of victims killed by adults.

Precipitating factors

Many homicides are related to alcohol and/or drug consumption

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.³⁰ Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor,³¹ police reported that the majority of accused persons (73%) and victims (55%) had consumed an intoxicant at the time of the homicide. Males were more likely than females to have used alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide, as both victims and accused persons (63% versus 39% for victims and 74% versus 61% for accused).

Alcohol and/or drug use was particularly prevalent when the homicide stemmed from an argument between the victim and the accused. Of those homicides that resulted from an argument, 86% of accused persons and 72% of victims had used drugs and/or alcohol.

Mentally ill accused more likely to kill family members than strangers

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or dementia) among accused persons. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental condition of the accused person and is not necessarily supported by a medical or health professional's assessment. As such, it should be interpreted with some caution.

Police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 14% of accused persons in 2004,³² similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997. Those with a mental illness were more likely to kill a family member or intimate partner (58%) as compared to an acquaintance (30%) or stranger (12%).

Half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Half (49%) of the homicide incidents in 2004 in which data were available occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide.³³ Of these 232 incidents, the majority (180) were committed as a result of another

violent offence: 106 during an assault, 45 during a robbery, 8 during a sexual assault, 5 as the result of stalking, 3 during a kidnapping/abduction and 13 during other violent offences. Six other homicide incidents occurred as a result of arson, 14 occurred as a result of other property offences (e.g. break and enter, theft) and 32 resulted from other types of criminal offences.

At-risk occupations

Two police officers killed in 2004

The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). Because of the inherent dangers associated with some occupations, there are certain people who are at greater risk for violence and homicide. It is important to note that the following analysis includes only those victims whose deaths directly resulted from their profession, either partly or entirely. For example, if a police officer were killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, then this homicide would not be counted as an occupation-related homicide.

It is relatively rare for a victim to be killed during the course of legal employment. Since 1961, there have been 120 police officers killed in the line of duty, including two in 2004 (1 in Alberta and 1 in Ontario). By comparison, preliminary figures for 2004 from the United States, with a population about eight times greater than Canada's, reported 54 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty.³⁴

There were 11 other homicides that occurred as a result of the victim's legal employment: 1 parole officer, 4 store/bar managers, 2 taxi drivers, 2 truck drivers, 1 insurance adjuster and 1 real estate agent. Since this information became available from the Homicide Survey in 1997, there has been an average of 17 victims killed each year while "on-the-job".

Many victims involved in illegal "occupations"

Data from the Homicide Survey have shown that homicides are often associated with a victim's involvement in illegal activities, such as gang activities, drug dealing or trafficking and prostitution. In 2004, police-reported a total of 18 prostitutes killed. This is the third year in a row in which the number of prostitutes killed reflected homicides related to investigations

29. Includes close friends, criminal relationship and casual acquaintances.

30. Parker, R.N. and Auerhahn, K. (1999). "Drugs, alcohol and homicide: Issues in theory and research" in *Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research*. Edited by Smith, M.D. and Zahn, M.A. Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications. pp. 176-191.

31. Excludes 178 victims and 197 accused persons for which police reported the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs as unknown.

32. Excludes 120 accused persons for which police reported the mental health status as unknown.

33. Excludes 117 incidents for which police reported an associated or related offence as unknown.

34. Based upon preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release, May 16, 2005.

in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.³⁵ Police were able to establish that 11 of the prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession, 6 where police were unable to make this determination and 1 where police determined that the homicide was not related to the victim's "occupation".

There were another 100 homicides committed against persons working in other types of illegal "occupations" such as drug dealers, members of an organized crime group or a gang, 21 more than 2003. Police were able to establish that 81 of these homicides occurred as a direct result of the victim's profession, 9 where police were unable to make this determination and 10 where police determined that the homicide was not related to the victim's "occupation".

35. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., police reported 5 homicides in 2004, 7 homicides in 2003 and 15 homicides in 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Glossary of terms

Accused

An accused person is someone against whom enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a homicide incident. For the purposes of this report, the term "perpetrator" is used interchangeably with "accused".

Gang-related homicide

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang.

Organized crime group

An organized crime group consists of a static or fluid group of (two or more) individuals who communicate, co-operate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network; and has, as one of its main purposes or activities, the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain.

Street gang

A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults and/or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, in order to obtain power and recognition and/or control specific areas of criminal activities.

Homicide

A homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence and, therefore, not included in the Homicide Survey). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide (e.g. self-defence) are not included.

Homicide count

The homicide count reflects the number of homicide victims that become known to police and subsequently reported to the Homicide Survey in a given year. Since some homicides become known to police long after they occur, there are generally a few homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years.

Homicide rate

This technique standardizes data to permit comparisons over time and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

Incident

An incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused persons, the offences must occur at the **same location** and at the **same time** if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Infanticide

Infanticide occurs when a female wilfully causes the death of her newly-born child (under one year of age), if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or from lactation.

Manslaughter

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.

Murder

A murder occurs when a person intentionally, by a wilful act or omission, causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- (a) it is planned and deliberate; or
- (b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g. police officer, correctional worker); or
- (c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g. treason, kidnapping, hijacking, sexual assault, robbery and arson).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

Solved homicide

A homicide is solved when an accused person has been identified by police and the incident has been cleared either by charge (laid or recommended) or "otherwise" (e.g. death of the accused by suicide or natural causes).

Methodology

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. However, while the detailed characteristics of the manslaughter and infanticide incidents prior to 1974 are not available, the counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then sent to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

The total count of homicides recorded each year equals the total number of homicides *known* by police departments and *reported* to the Homicide Survey during that year. Therefore, given that some homicides only become known to police long after they occur, some incidents that actually occurred in previous years are counted in the year they are reported by police to the Homicide Survey.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Table 1

Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961-2004¹

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ⁴	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
2003 ^r	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004	2	0	13	7	111	187	50	39	86	112	7	4	4	622

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. There are some homicides that are included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2

Homicide victim rates¹, by province/territory, 1961-2004

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada	% change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.35	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.13	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	2.48	1.77	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.18	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.80	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.38	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.58	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.64	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.03	2.26	3.27	9.48	10.29	1.73	-6.5
2004	0.39	0.00	1.39	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.69	2.67	22.43	9.34	13.49	1.95	12.3

... figures not applicable

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates.

1971-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001-2002: Final postcensal estimates.

2003: Updated postcensal estimates.

2004: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area ¹	2004 ²			2003 ^{3r}			Average 1994-2003	
	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Number of victims	Rate ⁵
500,000+ population								
Toronto	5,211,843	94	1.80	5,122,598	95	1.85	80	1.73
Montréal	3,633,264	63	1.73	3,604,587	56	1.55	71	2.08
Vancouver ⁶	2,173,679	56	2.58	2,141,179	45	2.10	52	2.65
Calgary	1,049,006	20	1.91	1,030,256	11	1.07	15	1.61
Edmonton	1,003,399	34	3.39	991,603	22	2.22	23	2.42
Ottawa ^{7,8}	873,397	10	1.15	868,293	10	1.15	10	1.25
Québec	714,303	6	0.84	709,462	3	0.42	9	1.25
Winnipeg	695,187	34	4.89	689,532	18	2.61	19	2.86
Hamilton ⁹	691,088	9	1.30	684,476	9	1.31	12	1.82
Total	16,045,165	326	2.03	15,841,985	269	1.70	291	1.98
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Kitchener	475,739	6	1.26	470,188	1	0.21	4	0.96
London	466,314	5	1.07	464,229	8	1.72	5	1.07
St. Catharines-Niagara	431,265	7	1.62	430,313	6	1.39	6	1.33
Halifax	379,770	9	2.37	376,870	3	0.80	7	2.01
Windsor	331,149	4	1.21	328,840	9	2.74	6	2.01
Victoria	330,752	5	1.51	328,700	5	1.52	6	2.00
Oshawa	328,864	6	1.82	321,726	1	0.31	2	0.70
Gatineau ¹⁰	282,317	1	0.35	276,635	3	1.08	4	1.51
Saskatoon	242,737	8	3.30	241,372	8	3.31	6	2.61
Regina	200,977	10	4.98	199,766	10	5.01	6	2.86
St. John's	178,629	1	0.56	177,005	2	1.13	2	1.20
Greater Sudbury	160,839	0	0.00	160,866	1	0.62	3	1.76
Abbotsford ¹¹	159,369	7	4.39	157,069	8	5.09	4	2.56
Kingston ^{11, 12}	154,666	0	0.00	153,840	5	3.25	3	2.18
Saguenay	148,260	2	1.35	148,211	0	0.00	1	0.67
Sherbrooke	147,063	0	0.00	145,535	0	0.00	2	1.26
Saint John	145,020	1	0.69	144,797	1	0.69	2	1.35
Trois-Rivières	144,738	1	0.69	144,313	0	0.00	2	1.11
Thunder Bay	124,856	0	0.00	125,281	1	0.80	3	2.10
Total	4,833,324	73	1.51	4,795,556	72	1.50	74	1.54
CMA totals	20,878,490	399	1.91	20,637,540	341	1.65	365	1.88
< 100,000 population	11,067,826	223	2.01	11,022,926	208	1.89	215	1.92
Canada	31,946,316	622	1.95	31,660,466	549	1.73	580	1.89

^r revised

1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.

2. A total of 20 homicides were reported and included in 2004 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Edmonton; 5 in Vancouver and 12 in areas < 100,000 population.

3. A total of 25 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in St. John's; 1 in Saint John; 1 in Québec; 1 in Edmonton; 7 in Vancouver and 14 in areas < 100,000 population.

4. Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Estimates have been revised and adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries.

5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

6. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 and 7 reported in the total for 2003 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

8. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.

9. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2004.

10. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

11. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2003.

12. Includes 3 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4

Homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest municipal police services

Police Service	2004			2003 ^r		
	Population ¹	Number of victims	Rate ²	Population ¹	Number of victims	Rate ²
Toronto CMA Police Services³						
Toronto Police	2,603,182	64	2.46	2,612,576	66	2.53
Peel Regional Police	1,108,112	15	1.35	1,066,779	16	1.50
York Regional Police	889,002	13	1.46	848,571	10	1.18
Montréal CMA Police Services³						
Montréal Police	1,877,192	43	2.29	1,871,161	41	2.19
Longueuil Police	385,110	4	1.04	384,609	4	1.04
Laval Police	364,806	6	1.64	360,434	4	1.11
Vancouver CMA Police Services³						
Vancouver Police	584,709	24	4.10	579,367	19	3.28
Surrey (RCMP) Police	383,831	10	2.61	378,578	5	1.32
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	202,966	2	0.99	202,852	2	0.99
Richmond (RCMP) Police	172,714	6	3.47	172,579	1	0.58
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	951,634	16	1.68	937,116	8	0.85
Ottawa Police	829,578	10	1.21	825,124	10	1.21
Edmonton Police	709,493	29	4.09	702,214	18	2.56
Winnipeg Police	647,433	34	5.25	642,643	18	2.80
Durham Regional Police ⁴	563,220	6	1.07	550,826	3	0.54
Québec Police	526,991	6	1.14	524,376	3	0.57
Hamilton Regional Police	519,734	9	1.73	517,791	8	1.55
Waterloo Regional Police	475,739	6	1.26	470,188	1	0.21
Niagara Regional Police	431,265	7	1.62	430,313	6	1.39
Halton Regional Police ⁴	427,219	2	0.47	415,249	3	0.72
London Police	356,436	5	1.40	355,258	7	1.97
Gatineau-Métro Police	231,788	1	0.43	226,766	3	1.32
Windsor Police	221,463	4	1.81	220,822	9	4.08
Halifax Regional Police	212,638	7	3.29	211,012	3	1.42
Saskatoon Police	201,929	8	3.96	201,416	8	3.97
Regina Police	182,398	10	5.48	181,649	10	5.51
St. John's (RNC) Police	178,629	1	0.56	177,005	2	1.13
Greater Sudbury Police	160,839	0	0.00	160,866	1	0.62
Saguenay Police	148,260	2	1.35	148,211	0	0.00
Sherbrooke Regional Police	147,063	0	0.00	145,535	0	0.00

^r revised

1. Police service population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

3. Only the largest police services are listed under the Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver CMA's and do not necessarily represent all of the police services in those CMAs.

4. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken baby syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1994	196	32.9	154	25.8	106	17.8	84	14.1	...	...	17	2.9
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	...	...	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	132	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999 ^r	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000 ^r	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	39	7.1	13	2.4	5	0.9
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002 ^r	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.7	66	11.3	8	1.4	9	1.5
2003 ^r	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	64	11.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
2004	172	27.7	205	33.0	136	21.9	63	10.1	6	1.0	13	2.1

Year	Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown ³		Total	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1994	11	1.8	...	...	22	3.7	6	1.0	596	100.0
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	11	1.7	635	100.0
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100.0
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100.0
1999 ^r	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7	10	1.9	538	100.0
2000 ^r	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2	9	1.6	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0
2002 ^r	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0	23	4.0	582	100.0
2003 ^r	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	22	4.0	549	100.0
2004	7	1.1	6	1.0	1	0.2	13	2.1	622	100.0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

... figures not applicable

r revised

1. Data became available in 1997.

2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

3. Includes 5 victims in 2004, 7 victims in 2003 and 15 victims in 2002 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported the method used to commit homicide as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6

Homicides involving firearms, by region

Region	2004		2003 ¹		Average 1994-2003	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Atlantic	6	0.26	6	0.26	9	0.39
Quebec	30	0.40	36	0.48	55	0.75
Ontario	55	0.44	54	0.44	52	0.46
Manitoba	13	1.11	3	0.26	5	0.40
Saskatchewan	4	0.40	6	0.60	5	0.45
Alberta	23	0.72	18	0.57	16	0.55
British Columbia	39	0.93	36	0.87	33	0.83
Territories ²	2	...	2	...	2	...
Canada	172	0.54	161	0.51	177	0.58

... figures not applicable

1. Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7

Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Type of Firearm											Total	Firearm-related homicides as a % of total
	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Other firearms ¹				
	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides			
1994	90	45.9	66	33.7	14	7.1	26	13.3	0	0.0	196	32.9	
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	176	29.9	
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	212	33.4	
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	5	2.6	193	32.9	
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	4	2.7	151	27.1	
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	6	3.6	165	30.7	
2000	108	58.7	57	31.0	4	2.2	11	6.0	4	2.2	184	33.7	
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	5	2.9	171	30.9	
2002	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	5	3.3	152	26.1	
2003	109	67.7	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	5	3.1	161	29.3	
2004	112	65.1	37	21.5	2	1.2	15	8.7	6	3.5	172	27.7	
Average 1994-2003	98	55.7	57	32.1	6	3.2	12	7.0	3	2.0	176	30.7	

1. Other firearms include firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship,¹ Canada

Relationship type (Victims killed by)	2004		2003 ^r		Average 1994-2003	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
<i>Family relationship</i>						
<i>Spousal relationship</i>						
Husband (legal)	27	5.9	21	5.0	23	5.1
Husband (common-law)	20	4.3	19	4.6	22	4.9
Husband (separated and divorced)	15	3.3	24	5.8	18	4.0
Wife (legal)	3	0.7	5	1.2	5	1.1
Wife (common-law)	8	1.7	7	1.7	9	2.0
Wife (separated and divorced)	1	0.2	2	0.5	2	0.4
Same-sex spouse (current or former) ²	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.1
Total spousal	74	16.1	78	18.8	79	17.5
<i>Non-spousal relationship</i>						
Father (and step-father)	21	4.6	19	4.6	28	6.2
Mother (and step-mother)	15	3.3	11	2.6	14	3.2
Child (and step-child)	17	3.7	14	3.4	19	4.3
Sibling	11	2.4	6	1.4	9	2.1
Other family relation ³	22	4.8	13	3.1	19	4.2
Total non-spousal	86	18.7	63	15.1	90	19.9
Total family	160	34.7	141	33.9	169	37.4
<i>Acquaintance</i>						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	22	4.8	11	2.6	18	4.1
Close friend	34	7.4	34	8.2	30	6.6
Neighbour	10	2.2	12	2.9	17	3.7
Authority figure ²	1	0.2	2	0.5	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	10	2.2	7	1.7	10	2.3
Criminal relationship ⁴	38	8.2	44	10.6	38	8.3
Casual acquaintance	115	24.9	103	24.8	99	21.8
Total acquaintance	230	49.9	213	51.2	214	47.2
<i>Stranger</i>	71	15.4	58	13.9	67	14.7
<i>Unknown relationship</i>	0	0.0	4	1.0	3	0.8
Total solved homicides	461	100.0	416	100.0	453	100.0
Unsolved homicides	161	...	133	...	120	...
Total homicides	622	...	549	...	573	...

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

2. Authority figure and same-sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the average is calculated from 1997 to 2003.

3. Other family relation includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

4. Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9

Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2004		2003 ^r		Average 1994-2003	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number ²	Rate ¹
Atlantic	4	0.31	4	0.31	4	0.35
Quebec	21	0.45	16	0.40	17	0.45
Ontario	21	0.32	21	0.32	26	0.43
Manitoba	6	1.01	4	0.68	3	0.58
Saskatchewan	5	0.98	8	1.57	4	0.76
Alberta	8	0.47	9	0.54	10	0.62
British Columbia	5	0.22	14	0.62	13	0.59
Territories ³	4	...	2	...	2	...
Canada	74	0.43	78	0.46	79	0.49

^r revised

... figures not applicable

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Excludes 6 same sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

3. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 10

Children (<12 years) killed by parents,¹ Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Actual Number of Accused in Parent-Child Homicides			
				Father	Step-Father	Mother	Step-Mother
1994	59	43	8.8	20	4	19	0
1995	53	36	7.4	19	2	12	1
1996	53	41	8.2	20	6	15	0
1997 ^r	65	53	11.4	18	5	23	1
1998	55	47	10.6	22	4	16	1
1999	36	26	6.3	13	3	9	0
2000	39	27	6.5	11	4	9	0
2001	39	30	6.8	12	2	11	1
2002	44	31	6.8	14	4	9	0
2003	33	23	5.5	9	4	10	1
2004	37	27	5.9	8	6	13	0
Average 1994-2003	48	36	7.8	16	4	13	1

^r revised

1. The number of child victims killed by parents does not necessarily equal the actual number of accused parents in parent-child homicides due to incidents involving multiple victims and/or multiple accused.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 11

Gang-related homicides, by region, 1994-2004

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a % of all homicides
1994	1	13	4	2	0	0	4	0	24	4.0
1995	0	13	0	3	0	1	4	0	21	3.6
1996	1	13	3	4	0	2	6	0	29	4.6
1997	1	17	1	2	0	1	6	0	28	4.8
1998	1	31	6	2	2	2	7	0	51	9.1
1999	0	30	5	1	0	4	5	0	45	8.4
2000	4	38	11	3	1	5	10	0	72	13.2
2001	0	23	19	4	1	4	10	0	61	11.0
2002	0	7	19	4	0	9	7	0	46	7.9
2003	1	15	38	6	4	8	12	0	84	15.3
2004	0	18	14	5	4	15	15	0	71	11.4
Average 1994-1997	1	14	2	3	0	1	5	0	26	4.2
Average 1998-2003	1	24	16	3	1	5	9	0	60	10.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 12

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1994 ¹	396	66.6	199	33.4	595	510	88.4	67	11.6	577
1995	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	501	87.3	73	12.7	574
1996	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	494	88.7	63	11.3	557
1997	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	441	85.5	75	14.5	516
1998	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	464	87.7	65	12.3	529
1999	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	439	90.1	48	9.9	487
2000	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	419	88.2	56	11.8	475
2001	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	440	87.3	64	12.7	504
2002	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	470	89.2	57	10.8	527
2003 ^r	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	464	88.4	61	11.6	525
2004	424	68.2	198	31.8	622	508	89.8	58	10.2	566
Average 1994-2003	391	68.2	182	31.8	573	464	88.1	63	11.9	527

^r revised

1. Total excludes 1 victim in which sex was reported by police as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 13

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1994	53	6	59	4.38	0.52	2.50	10.2
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.8
1996	48	3	51	3.87	0.26	2.11	9.2
1997	44	11	55	3.51	0.93	2.25	10.7
1998	54	3	57	4.27	0.25	2.32	10.8
1999	36	9	45	2.84	0.75	1.82	9.2
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.1
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.4
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	8.0
2003	48	9	57	3.69	0.73	2.25	10.9
2004	37	3	40	2.84	0.24	1.57	7.1
Average 1994-2003	43	8	51	3.45	0.63	2.08	9.6

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1994-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001-2002: Final postcensal estimates.

2003: Updated postcensal estimates.

2004: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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NOV 30 2005

Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004

by Maire Gannon and Karen Mihorean

Highlights

- Results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) indicate that 28% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported being victimized one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey. This is up slightly from 26% in 1999, when the victimization survey was last conducted.
- Increases in victimization rates were recorded for three of the eight offence types measured by the GSS: theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. There were no significant changes in rates of sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, and motor vehicle theft. A decrease was observed in the rate of break and enter.
- Household victimization offences were the most frequently occurring criminal incidents (34%), followed by violent victimization (29%) and thefts of personal property (25%). About 12% of incidents could not be classified within the eight offence types.
- Residents of western provinces generally reported higher rates of victimization than residents living east of the Manitoba-Ontario border. However, there were two exceptions to this regional pattern. Nova Scotia had the second highest rate of violent victimization, while Ontario's rate of personal property theft was comparable to rates recorded in the West.
- The risk of violent victimization (based on the number of incidents per 1,000 population) was highest among young Canadians (aged 15 to 24 years). Other factors, such as being single, living in an urban area, and having a low household income (under \$15,000) also increased the likelihood of violent victimization.
- For household victimization, rates per 1,000 households were highest among renters, those living in semi-detached, row, or duplex homes, and urban dwellers. For both household victimization and personal property theft, higher household income made households and individuals more attractive targets for victimization.
- The GSS reveals that a large proportion of Canadians never reported criminal incidents to police. In all, only about 34% of criminal incidents came to the attention of police in 2004, down from 37% in 1999. Household victimization incidents were most likely to be reported (37%), while thefts of personal property were the least likely (31%).
- In 4% of all incidents, victims believed the act was hate-motivated. This is the same as the figure recorded in 1999. In 2004, among hate-motivated incidents, about two-thirds (65%) were believed to be motivated by the victim's race or ethnicity, 26% by the victim's sex, 14% by their religion, and 12% by their sexual orientation.
- Canadians who self-identified as being Aboriginal were three times as likely as the non-Aboriginal population to report being victims of violent victimization. There was no significant difference between rates for visible minorities and non-visible minorities, while rates were lower among immigrants than non-immigrants (68 versus 116 per 1,000 population).
- Although the presence of weapons in violent incidents has remained relatively stable since 1999 (69% in 2004 and 72% in 1999), violent incidents resulting in injury increased. In 2004, 25% of violent offences resulted in injury to the victim, compared to 18% in 1999.
- Most often, violent incidents took place in a commercial establishment or public institution (38%). Some form of workplace violence represented 43% of the incidents occurring in a commercial establishment or public institution.



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Introduction

In 2004, as part of its General Social Survey program, Statistics Canada conducted a survey on victimization. This survey collected information on the extent and nature of self-reported criminal victimization, the impact and consequences of crime to the victim, reporting to the police and the use of informal and formal services. Information was also collected on fear of crime, and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. Similar surveys on victimization were conducted in 1999, 1993 and 1988. For the 2004 survey, interviews were conducted by telephone with about 24,000 people, aged 15 years and older living in the 10 provinces.¹

This *Juristat* explores the overall trends and regional variations of criminal victimization in Canada and shows that the level of violence has remained stable, while non-violent forms of victimization, namely theft of personal property and household victimization, have increased in prevalence. It also examines the individual risk factors associated with victimization,² revealing that youth and lifestyle play an important role in the risk of violent victimization, and renting a home and being in an urban setting place households at greater risk of household victimization.³ The impacts and consequences of being victimized are discussed, along with the informal and formal sources of support for victims.

Measuring victimization over the survey periods

Gathering data on trends in Canadian society, such as changes in victimization, is one of the principal objectives of the General Social Survey. While repeating the survey allows for trend analysis, the introduction of survey improvements can affect the comparability between different survey periods. The 1999 and 2004 surveys on victimization contain two important differences from the 1993 GSS: the inclusion of a spousal violence module and an improved definition of assault. The module on spousal violence allows for a better assessment of the extent of spousal violence, while the definition of assault has become consistent with the *Criminal Code* definition by excluding threats that were not face-to-face.

Extent of victimization and factors related to risk

For both the 1999 and 2004 GSS, the extent of victimization can be measured by merging together spousal violence incidents and data from the general victimization component of the survey. This procedure permits the calculation of victimization rates, which include both spousal and non-spousal violence.

While the addition of a spousal violence module enhances the measurement of violence committed by current and previous spouses/common-law partners, it prevents direct comparisons in rates of violent victimization with data from the 1993 GSS. Comparisons of violent victimization can only be made between the two conceptually similar cycles (1999 and 2004), or alternatively, comparisons between all three GSS survey periods must exclude violence committed by spouses, in addition to adjusting assault data for 1993 by removing threats that were not face-to-face.

1. Data collected in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut as part of a pilot test are not included in this analysis.
2. The analysis looks at each factor individually. There are likely interrelationships between the factors, for example, age and marital status or income and main activity. However, the objective of this publication is to provide a general, descriptive overview.
3. Unless otherwise noted, differences between estimates are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

Text box 1 Offence Types

The 2004 General Social Survey collected information on violent victimization, thefts of personal property, and household victimization. The distinction between these types of offences is based on the target of the criminal event. For violent offences and thefts of personal property, it is an individual who is victimized, while for household offences, it is the household itself.

Data were collected on three violent crimes (sexual assault, robbery, and assault), four household crimes (break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property, and vandalism), and theft of personal property. These offences were based on *Criminal Code* definitions. Respondents were also able to report criminal victimiza-

tion that could not be classified into any three of these categories. These offences were deemed 'unclassifiable'.

Incidents involving more than one type of offence, for example a robbery and an assault, are classified according to the most serious offence. The rank of offences from most to least serious is sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. Incidents are classified based on the respondent's answers to a series of questions. For example, did anyone threaten you with physical harm in any way? How were you threatened?

Offence	Description
Violent Victimization	
Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
Physical assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
Theft of personal property	
	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet (unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim).
Household victimization	
Break and enter	Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.
Theft of household property	Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances.
Vandalism	Willful damage of personal or household property.

For the purpose of this *Juristat*, changes in rates of violent victimization are examined using the first approach, i.e., comparing results from the 1999 and 2004 surveys. By doing so, it is possible to consider changes in rates of victimization for both spousal and non-spousal violence. Analysis of factors associated with increased risk of violent victimization, such as age and sex of the victim, also uses the same approach by including both spousal and non-spousal violence.

Conceptual changes to the GSS have not affected non-violent categories. Therefore, rates of non-violent incidents, including theft of personal property and household victimization, can be reliably compared between the three survey periods.⁴

Profile of victimization, impact of victimization, and sources of support

Sections providing details about each of the individual criminal incident types, namely the profile of violent incidents, the impact of violent victimization, and informal and formal sources of support, must exclude incidents of spousal violence. This is

because questions in the spousal violence module were meant to obtain an overall picture of these types of assaults rather than to capture specific information on each spousal violence incident. For example, victims of spousal violence were asked how many times they had been assaulted in the previous 12 months. They were also asked if they ever reported any of these incidents to the police. If a victim reported two incidents and also indicated that they turned to the police, it would not be possible to tell if they reported one or both of the incidents. The necessary exclusion of spousal violence, however, along with the modification to the 1993 assault category, permits comparisons with results from the 1993 GSS for these sections. For a detailed analysis of spousal violence, see Aucoin, K (ed.). 2005. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

4. No comparisons are made in this analysis to the 1988 GSS, as there were significant changes to particular crime categories between 1988 and 1993.

Text box 2

Comparing victimization and police-reported crime data

In Canada, there are two primary sources of data on the prevalence of crime: victimization surveys such as the GSS on victimization, and police-reported surveys such as the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. These two surveys are very different in survey type, coverage, scope, and source of information.¹

In particular, the GSS is a sample survey, which in 2004, sampled about 24,000 individuals aged 15 years and older. The sample is weighted so that responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over. In comparison, the aggregate UCR survey is a census of all incidents reported by police services across Canada. While the GSS captures information on 8 offences, the UCR survey collects data on over 100 categories of criminal offences.

Perhaps the most striking difference between the two surveys is that the UCR survey records criminal incidents that are reported to the police and the GSS records respondents' personal account of criminal victimization incidents. Many factors can influence the UCR police-reported crime rate, including the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police; reporting by police to the UCR survey; and changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices. For instance, when victims do not report incidents to police, those incidents will not be reflected in official crime statistics. Similarly, incidents that are reported to the police, but upon investigation are judged by police to be unfounded, are also excluded from official crime statistics.

One way to estimate the extent of crime that is not reported to police is through the GSS victimization survey. Because the GSS asks a sample of the population about their personal victimization experiences, it captures information on all crimes whether or not they have been reported to police. The amount of unreported victimization can be substantial. For example, the 2004 GSS estimated that 88% of sexual assaults, 69% of household thefts, and 67% of personal property thefts were not reported to the police. As a result, victimization surveys usually produce much higher rates of victimization than police-reported crime statistics.

Despite the benefits of victimization surveys, they do have limitations. For one, they rely on respondents to report events accurately. They are also only able to address certain types of victimization. They do not capture information on crimes that have no obvious victim (e.g., prostitution or impaired driving), where the victim is a business or school, where the victim is dead (as in homicides), or when the victim is a child (anyone under the age of 15 in the case of the GSS).

1. For more detailed information, please refer to Ogrodnik, L. and C. Trainor. 1997. *Differences between Police-Reported and Victim-Reported Crime, 1997*. Catalogue no. 85-542. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Changes in victimization⁵

More than one in four Canadians victimized over the past 12 months

Results from the 2004 GSS show that 28% of Canadians aged 15 years and over reported that they were victimized one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey. This represents a slight increase from 1999 (26%).

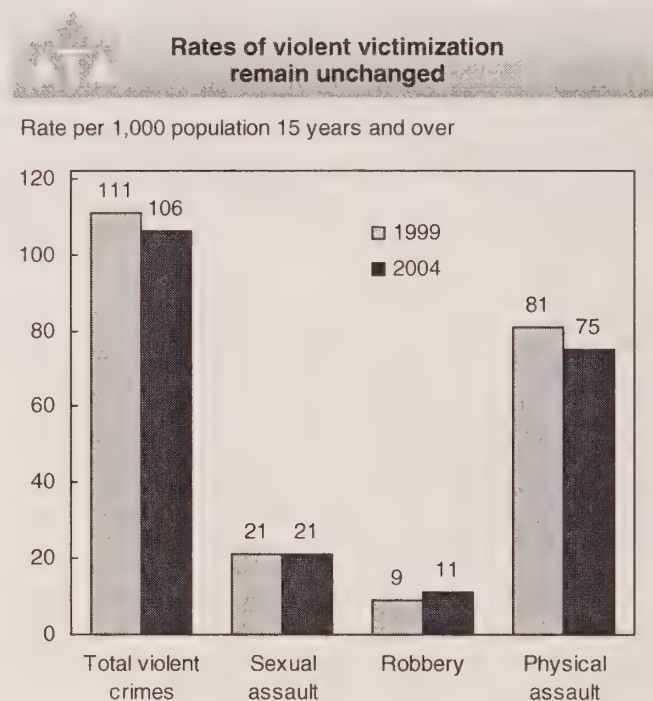
The level of multiple victimizations recorded in 2004 was similar to the findings from 1999. About four in ten victims indicated that they were victimized multiple times. More specifically, 19% of victims experienced two criminal incidents over the course of the previous year, while 20% were victimized three or more times.

Concerning the distribution of offence types, household victimizations were the most frequently occurring incidents (34%), about the same as in 1999. The most serious types of victimization, violent offences, represented a further 29% of incidents, followed by thefts of personal property (25%). A small proportion of criminal incidents (12%) could not be classified within the eight offence types. Examples of these incidents include fraud and hit and run violations.

Rate of violent victimization stable

Results from the 2004 GSS found that Canadians feel safer from crime than in 1999 and are generally more satisfied with their overall personal safety (Gannon, 2005). Despite this positive shift, there has not been a corresponding decline in the rate of victimization between survey periods. According to the 2004 GSS, for every 1,000 Canadians aged 15 years and over, there were 106 incidents of violent victimization, similar to

Figure 1



Note: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999 and 2004.

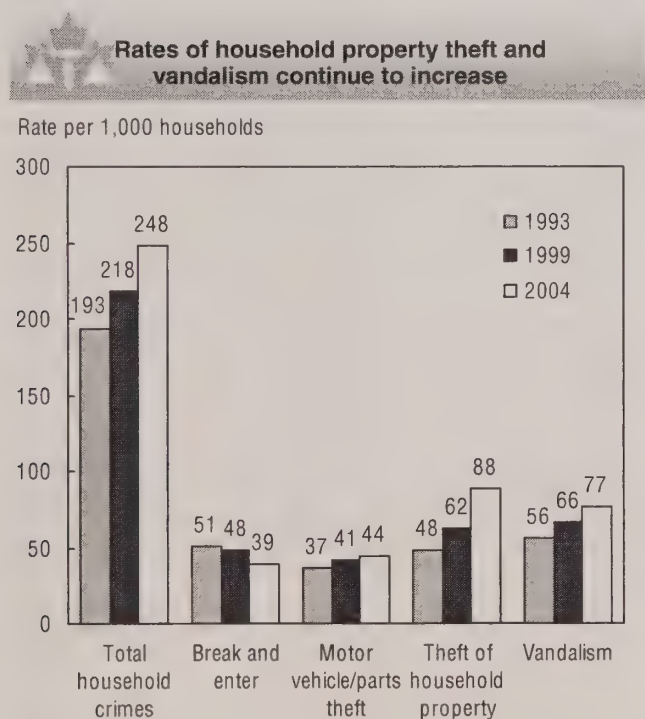
5. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.

the rate recorded in 1999 (111) (Figure 1).⁶ The absence of a statistically significant change in overall rates can be attributed to the stability in rates for all three violent offence categories, namely sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault.

In contrast, household victimization continued on an upward trend (Figure 2). In 2004, there were 248 incidents of household victimization per 1,000 households in Canada, 14% higher than in 1999 (218) and 28% higher than in 1993 (193). The growth from 1999 to 2004 was due to an increase in both theft of household property and vandalism. For theft of household property, the rate rose from 62 to 88 thefts per 1,000 households between 1999 and 2004, while vandalism rates increased from 66 to 77 incidents per 1,000. The only household offence type to decrease was break and enter, which declined 19% from 48 to 39 incidents per 1,000 households. There was no significant change in rates of motor vehicle theft.

Similarly, the rate of personal property theft continued to increase in 2004, climbing from 75 to 93 incidents per 1,000 population between 1999 and 2004. This 24% increase, combined with the increase of 44% between 1993 and 1999, places the 2004 personal theft rate nearly 80% higher than the rate of 52 incidents per 1,000 population recorded in 1993.

Figure 2



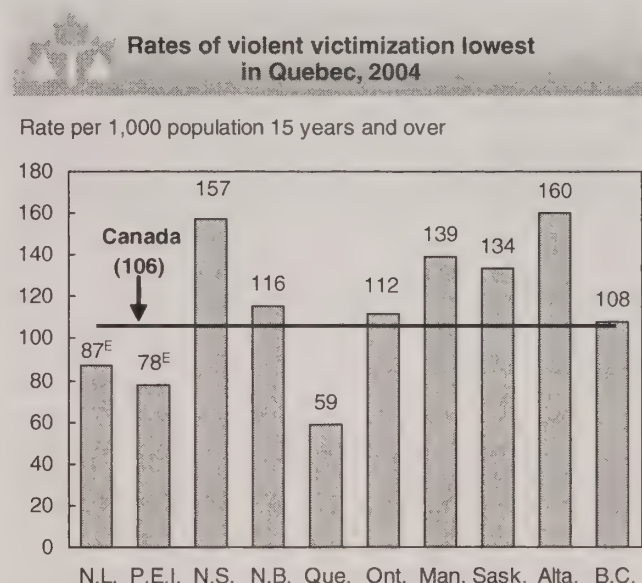
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993, 1999, 2004.

Victimization across Canada in 2004⁷

Household victimization highest in the West

Rates of victimization vary across Canada. The two highest violent victimization rates were found in Alberta and Nova Scotia (160 incidents per 1,000 population and 157 per 1,000) (Table 1, Figure 3). The next highest rates were recorded by the remaining Western provinces. In general, these rates were double the rate recorded by Quebec (59), the province with the lowest violent victimization rate.

Figure 3



Notes: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

^E use with caution

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Similar to the inter-provincial differences in victimization noted in the 1999 GSS, the likelihood of being a victim of a household offence was highest in Western Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the most household victimization incidents per 1,000 households (406 and 403) and also led the way with the largest increases since 1999 (71% and 57%, respectively) (Table 1, Figure 4). The lowest rates of household victimization were found in Newfoundland and Labrador (127 per 1,000) and Quebec (147). Quebec was also the only province to record a significant decrease in rates of household victimization (-28%). Rates of household victimization in the other provinces were generally higher than rates in 1999. The increases can be primarily attributed to increases in theft of household property and vandalism.

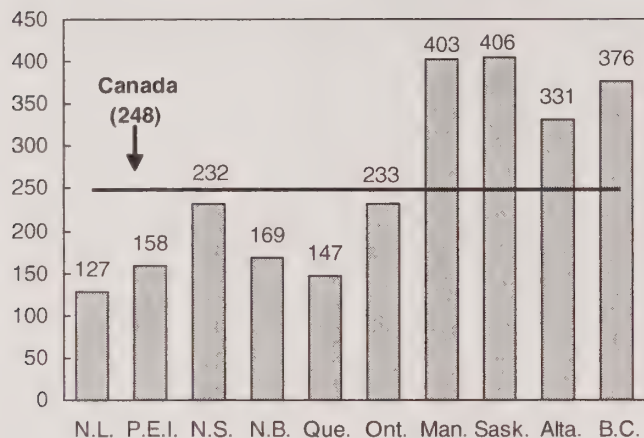
6. To control for size of the population, rates have been calculated to estimate the prevalence of victimization over time and between different groups of people. Rates of personal offences were calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 and over, and rates of household offences were calculated per 1,000 households.

7. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.

Figure 4

Rates of household victimization highest in the West, 2004

Rate per 1,000 households



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

With the exception of Ontario, people living in Western Canada were also more likely to be victims of personal theft. Rates reported by Western provinces ranged from 96 incidents per 1,000 in Saskatchewan to 127 per 1,000 in British Columbia, while the rate in Ontario was 103. The lowest recorded rates of personal theft were found in Newfoundland and Labrador (55) and Quebec (58).

Quebec cities have lowest victimization rates

Given the fact that Canada is highly urbanized,⁸ rates of victimization in cities can have a strong impact on provincial rates. This appears to be the case, as the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) with the highest and lowest rates of victimization were generally situated in provinces with similar rankings.

Among the 17 CMAs with available violent victimization figures,⁹ Halifax recorded the highest rate of violent incidents (229) per 1,000 population aged 15 and over (Table 2). Edmonton was second with a rate of 191. In part, high rates in these CMAs help to explain why residents of Nova Scotia and Alberta had the greatest risk of violent victimization. Saint John and Regina had next highest rates (173 incidents per 1,000, each). These findings are unlike the 1999 GSS results when violent victimization rates were all highest in Western cities. In 2004, the lowest rates belonged to Québec (55) and Montréal (64), which is consistent with the low rates recorded in the province of Quebec.

Saskatoon residents were the most likely to report experiencing offences against their household with a rate of 572 incidents per 1,000 households.¹⁰ This was slightly above the second highest rate recorded in Abbotsford (561). Cities that recorded the lowest rates of household victimization were all found in the

province of Quebec. In particular, Saguenay had the lowest rate at 99 incidents per 1,000 household, followed by Sherbrooke (115), Trois-Rivières (146), and Québec (157).

For personal property theft, Vancouver and Winnipeg, which are both situated in provinces with the most personal thefts per 1,000 population, had the highest rates among the CMAs (rates of 136 and 135).¹¹ As well, Quebec CMAs again influenced the low rate recorded for the province of Quebec, as they had the lowest rates of personal property theft among the CMAs.

Violent victimization

Factors influencing risks of violent crime¹²

Research has shown that various factors contribute to a person's increased risk of being the target of a violent crime (Siegel and McCormick, 1999). These factors include personal and lifestyle characteristics, such as sex, age, marital status, main activity, frequency of going out in the evening, household income and location of residence.¹³

Women and men experience similar levels of violent victimization

Similar to what was found in 1999, women and men continue to experience comparable overall rates of violent victimization. In 2004, 102 violent incidents per 1,000 women 15 years of age and older were recorded, compared to 111 per 1,000 men 15 years of age and older (Table 3). Men's rates of physical assault (91 per 1,000) and robbery (13 per 1,000) continue to remain higher than women's rates, while the rate of sexual assault for women was five times higher than the rate for men (35 per 1,000 women versus 7 per 1,000 men).

Rates of overall violent victimization against both men and women have not changed significantly since 1999. However, while there were no significant changes in rates of robbery and sexual assault, the rate of physical assault against women dropped from 70 incidents per 1,000 in 1999 to 59 per 1,000 in 2004. The rate of physical assault against men remained relatively constant (92 in 1999 and 91 in 2004).

8. Urban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 per square kilometre, based on the previous census population counts. All territory outside urban areas is considered rural. Based on this definition, for the 2004 GSS, 80% of the population 15 years and older lived in an urban area and 20% in a rural area.
9. For violent victimization, data for 11 of the 28 CMAs were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).
10. For household crime, all 28 CMAs had releasable data.
11. For personal property theft, half of the 28 CMAs had releasable data. Data for the remaining CMAs were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).
12. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.
13. As previously indicated, the analysis looks at each factor individually. There are likely interrelationships between the factors, for example, age and marital status.

Rates of violent victimization highest among young people

Young people were particularly vulnerable to violent crime. In 2004, the rate for Canadians aged 15 to 24 years (226) was 1.5 to 19 times greater than the rate recorded for other age groups. The risk of violent victimization steadily declined as age increased. For example, those aged 25 to 34 years had a rate of 157 per 1,000, compared to a rate of 115 per 1,000 for the next oldest age group (those aged 35 to 44 years) (Table 3). Rates of violent victimization were lowest among the oldest segment of the population, those aged 65 and older. Specifically, these individuals had a rate of 12 violent incidents per 1,000 population.

Text box 3 Risk of spousal violence¹

According to the 2004 GSS, 7% of women and 6% of men experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from their current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the previous 5 years. While these figures are relatively similar, it was found that women experienced more serious, injurious and repeated violence than did men. Specifically, women were more likely than men to state that the most serious form of violence they experienced included being beaten, choked or being threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them (23% versus 15% of male victims). Women were also twice as likely as men to report experiencing more than 10 violent episodes (21% versus 11%), more than twice as likely to suffer an injury (44% versus 18%), and three times more likely to fear for their life because of the violence (34% versus 10%).

One factor related to spousal violence is emotional abuse.² In cases of current relationships in which emotional abuse existed, 25% of women and 19% of men experienced violence. In contrast, in current relationships where there was no emotional abuse, 1% of women and 2% of men reported experiencing violence. The survey also indicates that the risk of violence is particularly elevated at the time of separation, especially in the case of women. One-third (34%) of women who experienced violence during their relationship said that the violence increased in severity or frequency after separation. The number of men who indicated that the violence increased in severity following separation was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Rates of spousal violence over the previous 12 months were also found to be higher among certain segments of the population, namely young spouses, those in shorter-term relationships, and those living in common-law unions. In particular, spouses aged 15 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to be victims of spousal violence as those 35 years of age and older, while those in relationships of three years or less reported rates triple those in relationships that were longer than ten years in duration. Rates for those in common-law relationships, which tend on average to involve younger people and be of shorter duration, were three times higher than those in marital unions.

It was also found that people whose partners were heavy drinkers³ were six times more likely to experience spousal violence than those whose partners never drank heavily (6% versus 1%).

1. For more information on the nature and extent of spousal violence in Canada, see Aucoin, K (ed.). 2005. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue number 85-224-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
2. Examples of emotional abuse include being isolated from family and friends, having no access to family income, or having property or possessions destroyed.
3. A heavy drinker is defined as someone who consumes five or more drinks on five or more occasions in a given month.

Frequency of evening activities elevates risk

Participating in evening activities, such as going to bars and visiting friends, is linked to other characteristics such as a person's income, marital status, and age. In 2004, those who reported participating in 30 or more evening activities in a given month also reported the highest rates of violent victimization (174 per 1,000 population) (Table 3).¹⁴ This rate was four times higher than those who partook in fewer than 10 evening activities in a one-month period (44 incidents per 1,000).

Between 1999 and 2004, rates of violent victimization remained relatively stable for people who participated in fewer than 30 evening activities per month, as well as for those who engaged in more than 30 evening activities.

Marital status linked to violent victimization

Based on the 2004 GSS, it is apparent that those who are single are at an elevated risk of being victims of violence (203 per 1,000) (Table 3). In part, this can be explained by the fact that single people tend to participate more frequently in evening activities and are generally younger.

Rates of violent victimization were somewhat lower for those who were in common-law relationships at 131 per 1,000. Yet, rates of violence were lowest among married people at 52 incidents per 1,000 population.¹⁵ While overall rates of

Text box 4 Hate-Motivated Crimes in Canada

Hate-motivated crimes are offences that not only harm the immediate victim, but may affect an entire community because they target not just the individual, but what the individual represents. Hate-motivated crimes are defined as crimes that are motivated by hate, not vulnerability, that are carried out due to the hatred of a person's sex, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or language.

In recent years in Canada, a number of hate crime units within police forces have been developed to address the special nature of these crimes. Since 1999, the GSS on victimization has attempted to quantify the extent to which victims believe that the criminal victimization was hate-motivated. In 2004, it was found that the overall percent of incidents believed by the victim to be hate-motivated remained unchanged since 1999 at 4%.

According to the 2004 GSS, violent offences are more likely than other offences to be hate-motivated: 8% of violent offences were believed to be motivated by hate, compared to 2% of household offences. In addition, similar to what was found in 1999, the most common motive for targeting an individual was their race or ethnicity, accounting for two-thirds of hate-motivated incidents (65%). About one-quarter (26%) of incidents were believed to be motivated by the victim's sex, followed by religion (14%) and sexual orientation (12%).

14. As a person can be involved in more than one activity per evening, for example going to a restaurant and then a movie, it is possible to be involved in more than 30 activities per month.
15. Data for widows and widowers were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).

Text box 5

Violence Among Diverse Populations

Through the 2004 GSS, it is possible to examine rates of violent victimization experienced by visible minorities, immigrants, including recent immigrants, and Aboriginal people, and to assess whether these segments of the population are at increased risk of being victimized.

Overall, Aboriginal people reported the highest rates of violent victimization compared to other minority populations and the non-Aboriginal population. Those who self-identified as being Aboriginal were three times more likely than the non-Aboriginal population to be the victim of a violent incident (319 people per 1,000 versus 101 per 1,000). Even when controlling for other factors such as age, sex, and income, Aboriginal people remained at greater risk of violent victimization.

Aboriginal women appeared particularly at risk of victimization. Rates for Aboriginal women were 3.5 times higher than the rates recorded for non-Aboriginal women, while rates for Aboriginal men were 2.7 times higher than those for non-Aboriginal men.

In the case of visible minorities, it was found that the risk of violent victimization did not differ significantly from their non-visible minority counterparts (98 versus 107 per 1,000 population) (Text box Figure). This was true for both men and women. However, in the case of immigrants, overall rates were lower than that of non-immigrants (68 versus 116 per 1,000 population). The reduced likelihood of victimization was even more pronounced when only those who had immigrated to Canada since 1999 were included. For example, 71 per 1,000 population of those who immigrated prior to 1999 were the victims of a violent crime, compared to 53 per 1,000 of those who had immigrated in the past 5 year period. Again, these patterns were similar for immigrant women and men.

One possible explanation for lower rates within the immigrant population may be due to the fact that the immigrant population tends to be older, a factor which reduces risk of victimization. According to the Census of the Population, compared to immigrants, a higher proportion of non-immigrants were under the age of 25 years, the most at-risk age group for violent victimization.

violent victimization among those living common-law were lower than those who were single and separated or divorced, rates of physical assault among those who were common-law and those who were separated or divorced were similar (106 versus 107 per 1,000). This finding may be due to the fact that spousal violence rates are elevated in common-law unions and among those in situations of separation and divorce.

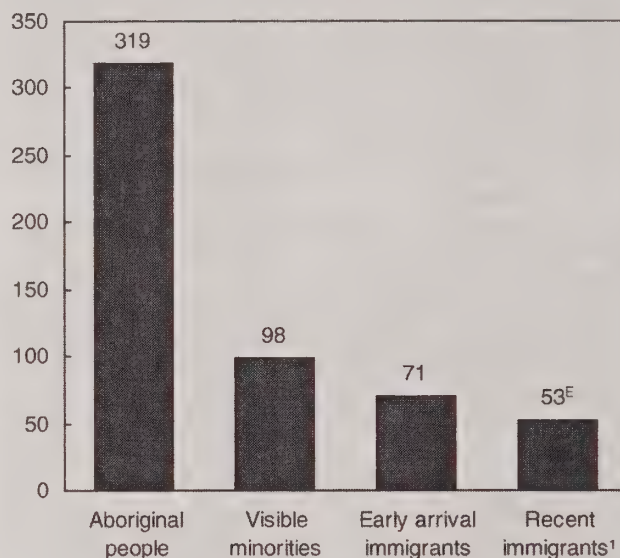
The unemployed and students experience higher rates of violent victimization

The GSS asked people to identify their main activity over the previous 12 months. Types of activities ranged from being a student to being retired. The survey found that a person's main activity is related to their risk of violent victimization.

Overall, those who were looking for work had the highest rates of violent victimization, followed by students (207 per 1,000 and 183 per 1,000 respectively) (Table 3). This pattern is primarily driven by rates of physical assault. Rates of violent victimization were lowest for those who were retired (18 per 1,000), which may be explained by the fact that most retired individuals are also in the lowest age-risk category (aged

Aboriginal people have highest rates of violent victimization, 2004

Rate per 1,000 population 15 years and over



Notes: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
^E use with caution

1. Included are immigrants arriving between 1999 and 2004.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

65 years and older) and tend to participate in fewer evening activities than their younger counterparts.

Rates highest among those with low household income

Often linked to age, marital status and main activity, individuals who lived in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 reported rates of violent victimization at least 1.5 times greater than those in higher income brackets (Table 3). However, there was relatively little difference in risk by income among individuals living in households earning \$15,000 or more.

Violent victimization rates higher in urban areas

Overall, those living in urban areas had higher rates of violent victimization than residents of rural areas. Urban residents experienced a total of 112 violent incidents per 1,000 population compared to 84 per 1,000 for rural residents (Table 3). The higher risk of victimization among urban residents was true for two of the three types of violent offences, sexual assault and robbery. There was no significant difference between urban and rural residents in terms of their risk of physical assault.

Sexual orientation associated with risk of violent victimization

As indicated in the text box examining hate-motivated crimes in Canada, it is evident that more than one in ten hate-motivated crimes are committed against someone because they were believed to be gay or lesbian. For the first time in 2004, the GSS asked all respondents to identify their sexual orientation in order to assess the extent to which one's sexual orientation impacts risk of victimization. According to the GSS, about 1% of Canadians aged 15 years and over identified themselves as Gays or Lesbians and this group was about 2.5 times more likely to be targets of violent victimization. The rate of violent victimization for those who were gay or lesbian was 242 per 1,000 population, compared to 99 per 1,000 population of those who were heterosexual. The numbers were too small to examine sexual assaults, robberies and physical assaults separately.

Profile of Violent Victimization Incidents¹⁶

While it is important to examine whether rates of violent victimization are increasing or decreasing and to assess factors that may be associated with an increased risk of victimization, it is also important to examine the nature and characteristics of these offences and who is committing acts of violence.

Victims most often victimized in commercial establishments or public institutions

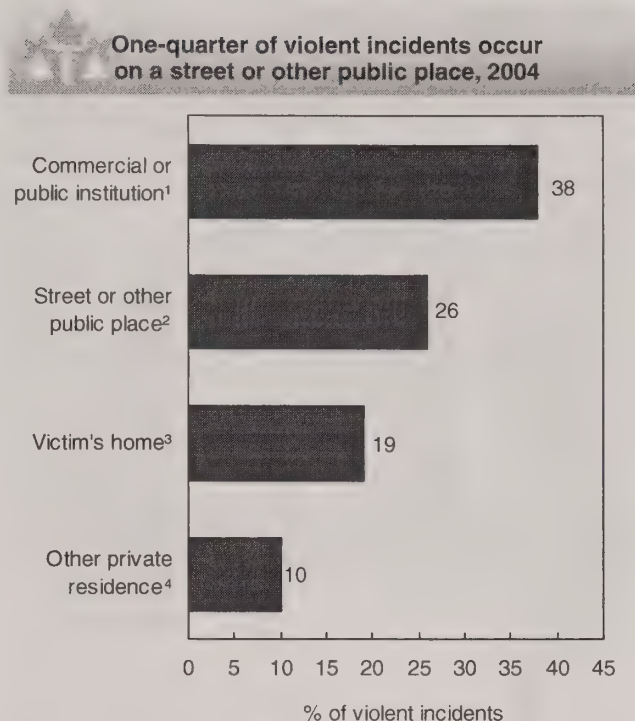
Violent incidents can occur in a number of different settings, including commercial establishments, other public places (e.g., streets and parks), and victims' homes or other private residences. Excluding spousal violence, violent incidents were most likely to occur in a commercial place or public institution (38%) (Figure 5). In particular, 14% of all violent incidents took place in an office, factory, store or shopping mall, 12% in a bar or restaurant, 7% in schools and 5% in hospitals.

In addition to being the most common location for violent victimization, commercial establishments were often the victim's place of work. In 2004, 43% of incidents occurring in a commercial establishment were also the victim's place of work. An office building, factory, store or shopping mall were most likely to be the victim's place of work (49%), followed by a hospital (31%), restaurant or bar (10%) and schools (10%).

Public places other than commercial or public institutions were the second most frequent locations of violent victimization. These places included sidewalks, streets or highways in or outside the victim's neighbourhood (18%), parking garages or parking lots (3%), rural areas or parks (3%), or on public transportation (2%).

Approximately one in five (19%) violent incidents took place either in the victim's home or elsewhere on the victim's residential property. Another 10% of incidents occurred in another private residence, which includes the offender's home or other residence or farm.

Figure 5



Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

1. Includes a restaurant/bar, factory, a store, shopping mall, inside school or on school grounds, prison or rehabilitation centre.
2. Includes public transportation, parking garages, parking lots, sidewalks, streets, highways, rural areas, parks.
3. Includes inside home or apartment, vacation property, garage, building on property, yard, farm field, driveway, parking lot, shared areas such as apartment hallway or laundry room.
4. Includes in or around offender's home or other private residence or farm.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

There were variations in the location of violent incidents depending on the offence type. While robbery incidents were most likely to take place on the street (43%), both physical and sexual assaults were most likely to occur in commercial establishments (39% and 49%, respectively). The most common commercial establishment where a sexual assault occurred was a bar or restaurant (20%) or an office building, factory, store or shopping mall (19%). In the case of physical assaults, the most frequent commercial establishment in which these offences took place was in an office building, factory, store or shopping mall (14%), followed by a bar or restaurant (11%).

A commercial establishment was more likely to be the victim's workplace in cases of physical assaults than in cases of sexual assaults (49% versus 35%). The numbers for robberies that occurred in the victim's place of work were too small to produce reliable estimates.

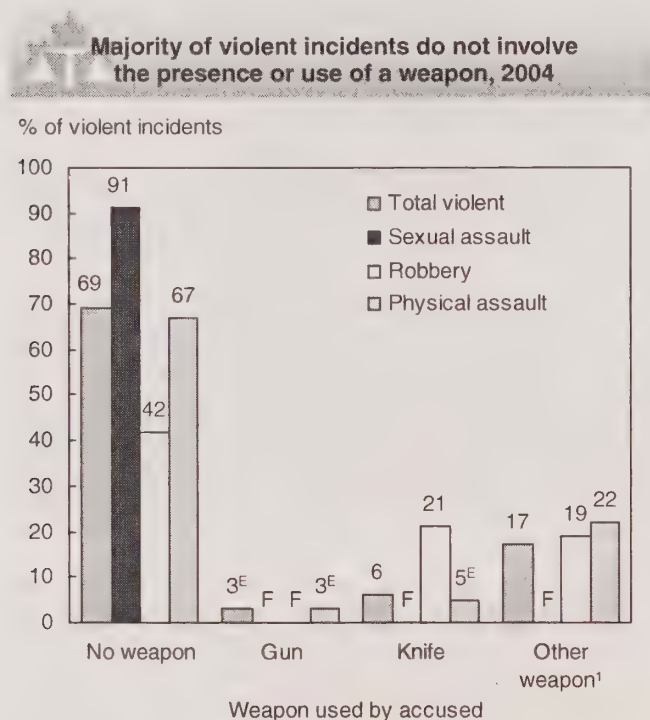
16. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.

One-quarter of violent victimizations involve the use or presence of a weapon¹⁷

According to police-reported statistics, in 2004, about 75% of violent incidents did not involve the use or presence of a weapon.¹⁸ Similarly, when respondents to the 2004 GSS were asked whether a weapon was used or present in the violent incident committed against them, 69% of incidents did not involve a weapon, while one-quarter did (Figure 6).¹⁹

Among different types of violent offences, robberies were most likely to involve the use or presence of a weapon. Fully 45% of robbery incidents reported to the 2004 GSS involved the use or presence of a weapon, while this was the case for 29% of physical assaults. In the case of sexual assaults, the vast majority did not involve a weapon (91%).

Figure 6



Notes: Figures do not add to 100% due to don't know/not stated responses.

Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

^E use with caution

^F too small to produce reliable estimates

¹ Other weapon includes bottles, bats, sticks, and rocks.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Overall, knives were twice as likely to be present or used in a violent incident than were guns (6% versus 3%). Other weapons, including bottles, bats, sticks, and rocks, were present in 17% of violent offences.

Violent incidents often linked to alcohol or drug use

Much research has been conducted on the role of alcohol and drugs in the commission of crimes (Sumner and Parker, 1995; Boles and Miotto, 2003). In order to assess the extent to which alcohol or drugs were involved in violent crimes, respondents were asked whether they believed the incident was related to the person's alcohol or drug use. According to the 2004 GSS, in just over one-half (52%) of violent incidents, the victim believed that the accused's alcohol or drug use played a role. This proportion increased from 43% of incidents since the survey was last conducted in 1999. Alcohol or drug use by the perpetrator did not vary considerably among the three types of violent offences, which ranged from 48% of sexual assault incidents to 55% of physical assaults.

Violent victimization most often involve a male acting alone

In Canada, there has been growing concern about crimes committed by gangs (Hackler, 2003). Although the GSS does not measure gang-related violence, it is able to assess the number of accused involved in a violent incident. Results from the GSS show that about one in five violent incidents involved more than one accused (22%). The majority of violent incidents (76%), however, were committed by one accused (Table 4). Of the three types of violent offences, robberies were most likely to involve more than one accused (39%). There has been no significant change in the proportion of violent incidents committed by two or more accused between 1999 and 2004 (73% versus 76%).

Among the 76% of violent incidents in which one accused was involved, the vast majority of accused were male (87%). This remained true for the three types of violent offences, ranging from 86% of physical assaults to 91% of sexual assaults.

According to the victim, the majority of accused acting alone tended to be young, with one-half between the ages of 18 and 34 years. In another 13% of incidents, accused were believed to be between the ages of 12 and 17 (Table 4). The proportion of those who committed acts of violence was lowest among those who were 55 years of age and older. While this pattern generally holds true for the three types of violent offences, those accused of sexual assault tended to be older on average. Forty percent of sexual assault incidents were committed by someone 35 years of age and older. This was the case for only about 31% of physical assaults and 26% of robberies.

17. The GSS asked respondents whether a weapon of any kind was present or used in the violent incident. Weapons include guns, knives, bottles, bats, sticks, rocks and other things that could be used as a weapon.

18. The police-reported survey, or the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), provides detailed information on criminal incidents reported to the police. The data for 2004 are based on a sample of 120 police departments, representing 58% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

19. In 6% of violent crime incidents, it was unknown whether the person committing the incident had a weapon.

Half of violent incidents committed by someone known to the victim

Friends, acquaintances or someone else known to the victim were the perpetrators in half (51%) of violent incidents involving a lone accused.²⁰ Strangers were the next most common perpetrator, accounting for 44% of violent incidents. A small proportion (5%) of incidents was committed by a family member; however, this analysis excludes spousal violence. If spousal violence incidents were included in the total, the proportion of offences committed by a family member would increase to 32%.

The relationship of the accused varies across the different types of violent offences. For both sexual and physical assault incidents, individuals were most likely to be attacked by a friend, acquaintance or someone else known to the victim (64% and 49%). Meanwhile, perpetrators were most often strangers in robbery incidents (60%).

Impacts and consequences of violent crime²¹

There are a number of ways in which the overall impact and consequences of violent incidents can be assessed, including physical injury to the victim, seeking medical attention for injuries, experiencing difficulty carrying out main activities, and emotional impacts.

Rise in incidents of violent victimization causing injury

While there has been no significant change in the overall presence or use of a weapon in violent victimization, a higher percentage of violent incidents resulted in physical injury. In 2004, 25% of violent incidents resulted in the victim being physically injured, compared to 18% of incidents in 1999 (Figure 7). The rise may be fuelled by an increase in relatively minor physical injuries (e.g., bruises), given the fact that there has been no significant change between 1999 and 2004 in the proportion of incidents where medical attention was sought.

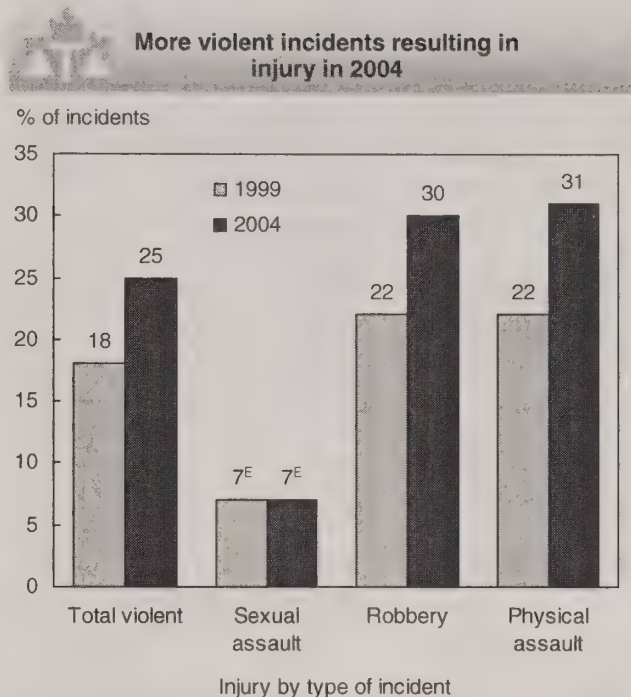
While there has been no change in the proportion of sexual assault incidents that resulted in physical injury (7%), significantly higher proportions of robberies (30%) and assaults (31%) resulted in physical injuries in 2004 compared with 1999 (22% for both robbery and physical assault).

Some victims find it difficult to carry out their everyday activities

Victims had difficulty carrying out their main activity because of the violence in one-quarter of incidents. Incidents of robbery were most likely to disrupt a person's main activity. For example, in slightly more than one-third of robbery incidents (35%), victims found it difficult to carry out their main activity compared to 25% of sexual assaults and 22% of physical assault incidents.

Among those victims who had difficulty carrying out their main activity, 37% said that it was for one day, while a further 39%

Figure 7



Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
^E use with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

indicated it was for two to seven days. Sixteen percent of victims who had their main activities disrupted said that they were affected for more than two weeks.

One-quarter of victims of violence said that the incident didn't affect them much

Not all violent incidents result in physical injury, but many may leave emotional scars. Yet, in about one-quarter (26%) of incidents, victims said the incident did not affect them much. Among those emotions that the incident did evoke, being angry (32%), being upset, confused or frustrated (20%) and feeling fearful (18%) were the most prevalent. For about one in ten incidents, victims said that their experience made them more cautious or aware (9%) (Figure 8). There were no discernible differences in emotional impacts among the three types of violent offences.

Informal and formal sources of support²²

While some victims of violent victimization may not have told anyone about their experience until telling the survey interviewer over the phone (7%), many relied on various

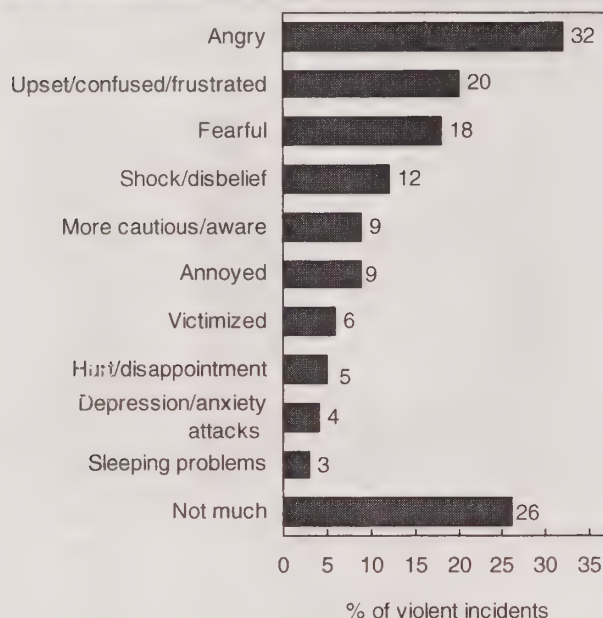
20. Includes only violent incidents with one perpetrator.

21. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.

22. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.

Figure 8

Anger is the most common reaction among victims of violent victimization, 2004



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

sources of support to help them cope with their experience, ranging from contacting the police to talking to a family member or a co-worker about the incident. In order to assess the extent to which victims seek help or support from others, a number of questions were asked concerning the use of both formal and informal services.

Reporting rates for violent victimization remains unchanged

Victim surveys capture not only incidents reported to the police, but also those that are never brought to the attention of the police. Unlike the overall patterns in police reporting, which indicate that fewer victims are turning to the police,²³ reporting of violent victimization remained stable between 1999 and 2004. In 1999, 31% of violent victimization incidents were reported to the police, compared with 33% of incidents in 2004.²⁴ Among violent incidents, robberies and physical assaults were most likely to be reported (46% and 39%). Sexual assaults were the least likely to be reported to police (8%) (Table 5).

Many victims of violent victimization feel a duty to report to police

There are a number of reasons why victims of violent crime may choose to report to the police. The reason most often cited in the 2004 GSS was that they felt it was their duty to

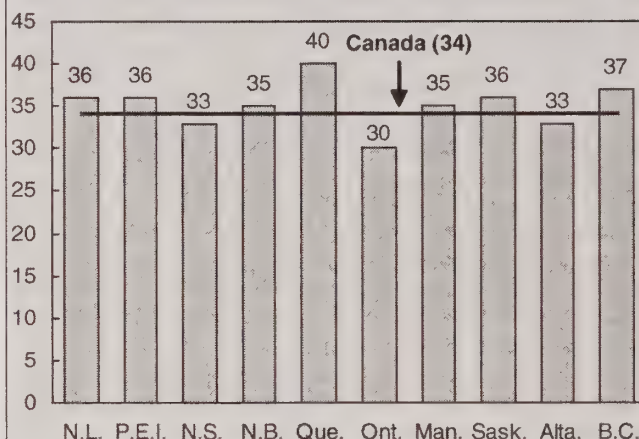
Text box 6

Reporting to police by region

There are some regional variations in the decision to contact the police. Reasons for these differences could be related to the reporting structure of police services. In some areas, victims of crime can report incidents to police directly over the phone, while in other cases the victims are required to file a report in-person. Variations in the amount of time required to report and the ease of reporting may be considerations taken into account by victims in determining whether or not to report their victimization.

Rates of reporting to police vary across the country, 2004

% of all incidents



Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Overall, 34% of all victimization incidents were reported to police in 2004, down from 37% in 1999. When examining reporting by province, the proportion ranged from 40% of incidents in Quebec to 30% in Ontario (Text box Figure). The greater rate of reporting in Quebec is driven by the high level of reporting for violent incidents.

Quebec residents were most likely to report violent victimizations to police, with almost half (49%) of incidents coming to the attention of police. The next highest rates of reporting violent victimization were in Prince Edward Island (37%) and Nova Scotia (36%). As for household victimization, police were most likely to find out about the incident in Prince Edward Island (51%) and least likely in Ontario (33%).

Among the CMAs with available figures,¹ rates of reporting for all victimization incidents varied from 17% of incidents in St. Catharines-Niagara to 46% in Sherbrooke.

1. Data for some CMAs were not releasable.

23. In 1999, 37% of incidents were reported to police, compared to 34% in 2004.

24. There was no statistically significant difference between 1999 and 2004.

report to the police, accounting for 83% of incidents.²⁵ Many violent incidents were also reported to the police because the victim wanted the offender arrested or punished (74%), or wanted the violence stopped or wanted protection from the offender (70%).

Other reasons reported, such as to claim insurance or receive compensation (20%) or because it was recommended by someone else to report to the police (19%) were only mentioned as reasons for bringing the incident to the attention of the police in about one in five violent incidents.

Other factors that appear to influence police reporting of violent victimization include the severity or seriousness of the offence, including whether the victim was injured, whether a weapon was present and whether the incident resulted in the victim having to take time off from their main activity because of the violence. Incidents in which the victim was injured were about 1.5 times more likely to be reported to the police than incidents that did not result in injury (47% versus 28%). Rates of reporting to police were more than double for incidents involving weapons than those without any weapons (53% versus 25%) and double if the victim had to take time off from their everyday activities (51% versus 27%).

Young victims least likely to turn to police

A victim's age and sex are also linked to the likelihood that a violent incident will come to the attention of police. Similar to the 1999 survey, young victims were the least likely to contact the police for help, with 24% of incidents involving victims aged 15 to 24 years being reported. This proportion is lower than the reporting rates for older age groups.

Women reported their violent victimization to police in 26% of incidents, compared to 38% of incidents involving men. The lower rate of reporting for women may be driven, in part, by the fact that women were more often than men the victim of sexual assault, which is the offence most likely to go unreported.

Visiting the scene and making a report or conducting an investigation are most common actions taken by police

Respondents who said that the police found out about the incident were asked what actions the police took when notified of the violent incident. In three-quarters of the violent incidents that were brought to the attention of the police, the police visited the scene (77%) or made a report or conducted an investigation (73%). In about one in four violent victimization, the police gave the offender a warning (37%), and in 30% of incidents the police took the offender away or made an arrest or laid a charge.

Victims satisfied with police action in six out of ten violent incidents reported to police

Generally, the Canadian public feels that their local police are doing a good job (Gannon, 2005). Victims of criminal incidents who reported the incident to the police were also asked whether they were satisfied with the actions the police took. Victims of violent victimization said that they were either very satisfied

(36%) or somewhat satisfied (24%) with police actions. In only 14% of violent incidents were victims somewhat dissatisfied, but in one-quarter of incidents victims said that they were very dissatisfied with police actions (24%). Numbers were too small to examine robbery and sexual assault separately, but in the case of physical assault, patterns of satisfaction were similar to the overall level of satisfaction with police actions for violent incidents.

"Incident not important enough" often cited as reason for not reporting

Of the 66% of violent incidents that were not reported, six in ten violent incidents were not reported to the police because the victim dealt with the violent incident in another way.²⁶ Other common reasons cited for not reporting a violent incident to the police was because the victim felt that the incident was not important enough (53%), they didn't want the police involved (42%), they felt that it was a personal matter (39%), or they didn't think the police could do anything about it (29%). In just over one in ten violent incidents, the victim felt that the police wouldn't help (13%), and in almost an equal proportion of incidents, the victim did not report because they feared retaliation by the offender (11%).

When victims were asked to cite what was the main reason for not reporting to the police, findings were similar. Overall, 28% of violent incidents were not reported to police because they were dealt with in another way and a further 28% were not reported because the victim felt that they were not important enough to bring to the attention of the police.

As indicated previously, incidents that did not involve an injury, weapon or where the victim did not have to take time off from their everyday activities were less likely to be reported to the police.

About one in ten victims of violence seek help from a formal help agency

In Canada, there are a range of services that victims can turn to for help, including counsellors or psychologists, community or family centres, women's centres, victim services and crisis centres or help lines. In 2004, victims sought assistance from these services in about one in ten violent victimization (9%). Despite having the lowest rates of police reporting, sexual assault victims were more likely than physical assault victims to rely on these services (13% versus 7%). Seeking help from a counsellor or psychologist was the most frequently used service among all victims of violence.

Victims of violent victimization most likely to turn to friends or neighbours

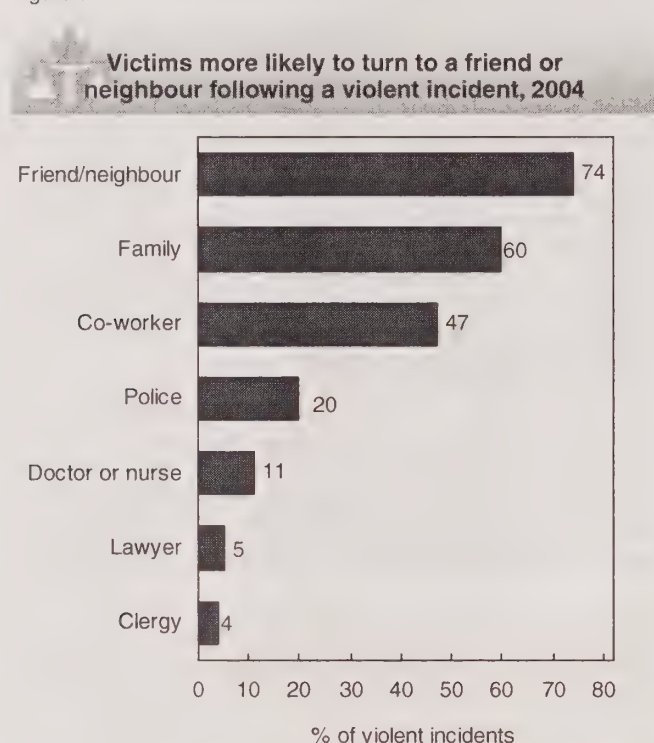
While victims turned to a formal help agency in only about one in ten violent incidents, the overwhelming majority of victims turned to informal supports to help them deal or cope with

25. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for contacting the police. Therefore, percentages do not total 100%.

26. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for not reporting incidents to police. Therefore, percentages do not total 100%.

their experience (90%). In nearly three-quarters of incidents, victims of violence said they told either a friend or neighbour about the incident, while in 60% of incidents, victims said they discussed the incident with family (Figure 9). In just under one-half of incidents, victims confided in a co-worker (47%). Victims of violent offences mentioned the incident to a medical practitioner in about one in ten incidents and to a lawyer or clergy in about 5% of incidents.

Figure 9



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

While victims of sexual assault were more likely to seek help from a formal help agency, they were less likely than victims of robbery or assault to turn to informal support including friends, family or co-workers.

Household victimization

Factors influencing risks of household victimization

A number of factors have been linked to a household's likelihood of being a target for victimization. These factors often center on the home's proximity to high-crime areas, its attractiveness to potential offenders, and whether there is an element of guardianship²⁷ (Besserer and Hendrick, 2001). Some of these factors include location of the home (urban/rural), the type of dwelling, home ownership, household income, and size of household.

Text box 7

Characteristics of theft of personal property

Theft of personal property includes theft of such things as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet, but unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim. It is mostly an urban phenomenon in that urban residents are one and one half times more likely than rural residents to have their personal property stolen.

According to the 2004 GSS, females were more likely than males to be the victim of personal property theft (100 per 1,000 population versus 86), and risk decreased with age. Rates for individuals aged 15 to 24 years were almost 5 times greater than the rates for those 55 years of age and older (165 versus 35 per 1,000 population). In addition, similar to household victimization, those whose income was higher were also at greater risk. Specifically, Canadians with a household income of more than \$60,000 experienced rates of personal property theft about one and one half times greater than those earning less than \$30,000.

Just under one half (44%) of these incidents took place in a commercial building, of which stores, shopping malls and office buildings were the most common location. A further one-third occurred inside or around the victim's home of which the majority of these took place around the victim's home.

In 2004, 31% of personal property theft incidents were reported to the police. This represents a decrease in reporting from both 1999 (35%) and 1993 (42%). However, as in 1999, incidents with significant dollar losses were more likely to be reported to the police. When the value of the stolen property was \$1,000 or greater, 77% of thefts were reported to police.

While victims were most likely to say that they reported to the police because they felt that it was their duty to report (58%) or to arrest and punish the offender (44%), in about 4 in 10 incidents victims said that the main reason for not reporting to the police was because it was not important enough. In fact, in 42% of personal property theft incidents, out-of-pocket expenses to the victim were less than \$100.

Shorter periods of residence related to risk

Individuals who have lived in their homes for a short period of time were more likely to experience household victimization. Rates of household victimization were highest among homes where residents lived in their dwelling for less than one year (317 incidents per 1,000 households). The rate of household victimization declined with greater residential stability. The lowest rate belonged to households with a length of residency of ten years or more (196).

As would be expected, shorter periods of residence tend to be characterized by fewer bonds with neighbours, which may translate into reduced guardianship when the home is unoccupied (e.g., people to watch over the home during the workday). According to the 2004 GSS, those who lived in their residences for short periods of time were less likely to know their neighbours and less likely to state they lived in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other. For

27. Guardianship has been defined as the efforts that are made to increase personal safety and reduce the risk of victimization (Miethe et al., 1987).

instance, when the length of residence was under one year, 72% of individuals stated they live in a neighbourhood where people help each other. This compares to 81% for those who lived in their dwelling for 3 years to less than 5 years and 84% for those who lived in their dwelling for 5 years to less than 10 years.

When looking at all those who lived in their dwelling for less than 10 years,²⁸ it appears that although familiarity with neighbours did not influence risk of household victimization, the quality of relationships with neighbours did have an impact. The risk of household victimization among people who stated that they lived in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other was 55% lower than for those who did not feel this way (262 incidents per 1,000 versus 404 per 1,000). As well, lower rates were recorded for those who stated their neighbours had done a favour for them in the last month (rate of 261 compared to 297).

Homes located in urban areas at increased risk

Regardless of the type of household victimization, the risk of household victimization is elevated when the home is located in an urban area. In 2004, there were 269 incidents per 1,000 households in urban areas, compared to a rate of 164 in rural areas (Table 6). Urban residents also experienced an increase in the rate of household victimization from 1999 (+16%), while people living in rural areas saw no change in the household victimization levels.

The higher rates of household victimization in urban centres may reflect the possible reduced guardianship and proximity to motivated offenders. Urban dwellers were less likely than rural dwellers to state that they live in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other (75% versus 87%). This may suggest that fewer people in urban settings have neighbours who would keep watch over their property while they are away from their home.

Rates highest among renters

Rates of household victimization were highest among renters. In 2004, rented dwellings had a rate of 267 incidents per 1,000 households, compared to a rate of 242 for owned dwellings (Table 6). Again, people's connections with neighbours and the element of guardianship may offer one possible explanation for the higher rates of victimization for rented homes. That is, renters were less likely than home owners to say that their neighbours would help one another. Therefore, it may be less likely that neighbours are aware of and would respond to unusual activity in or around a neighbour's property.

Vandalism was the only household victimization where owned dwellings were more likely to be targeted. In fact, the vandalism rate (81 per 1,000 households) for owned homes was 19% higher than the rate for rental homes (68). One factor that may be contributing to these findings is that renters may not consider common areas or areas on the exterior of their rented dwelling as their household property. Consequently, renters may not report to the survey vandalism that occurs in these areas, whereas home owners are more likely to report vandalism occurring anywhere on their property.

Household income increases risk

While lower household income increases the risk of violent victimization, the opposite is true for household victimization. Results from the 2004 GSS suggest that the overall rate of household victimization increases with household income. In particular, households with an income of \$60,000 or more had a rate of 300 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This rate was 17% greater than the rate (257) for the middle household income category of \$30,000 to \$39,999, and 88% greater than the rate (160) for the lowest household income category of less than \$15,000. Having a high income increased the risk of household victimization for all four household offences. It might be that higher income households are more attractive to potential thieves in that they presumably have more property or property that is considered more valuable.

Households with fewer members at lower risk

People living alone had the lowest risk of household victimization. In 2004, homes with one household member had a rate of 178 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This rate steadily rose to a high of 323 incidents per 1,000 households for homes with 4 or more occupants. The association between household size and household victimization was fairly consistent for most types of household offences. Vandalism, however, had the highest rate (103 incidents per 1,000 households) among homes with 3 members, followed by those with 4 or more occupants (rate of 92).

Semi-detached, row, and duplex homes have highest risks

The type of home can influence the probability of household victimization. As with the 1999 GSS, people residing in semi-detached, row and duplex homes had the highest rates of household victimization, at 323 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This compares to a rate of 247 per 1,000 households for single detached homes and 213 per 1,000 households for apartments.

Even when taking into account household income, home ownership and length of residency, the type of dwelling remains a general risk factor for household victimization. Residents of semi-detached, row, and duplex homes consistently have higher overall rates of household victimization than other house types with comparable income, ownership, and length of residency profiles. The risk to apartment dwellers increases slightly among households with an income of less than \$60,000, making them more vulnerable than residents of single detached homes in the same income bracket. However, apartment dwellers remain at lower risk than residents of semi-detached, row houses and duplexes.

The relationship between housing type and rates of household victimization holds true for most types of household victimization incidents. The one exception is theft of motor vehicles or parts. In this case, there was little difference in risk between the three main dwelling types. This may be because motor vehicle theft

28. Data on bonds with neighbours were collected among those who lived in their residences for less than 10 years.

is more likely than other crimes to occur in a location other than the person's home;²⁹ hence, the type of dwelling is less of a factor in the commission of these crimes.

Impact of household victimization

Victims of break and enter most affected emotionally by victimization

While not as serious as violent crime, household victimization can have considerable negative consequences on victims' emotional and financial wellbeing. In 2004, the most common emotional reaction to household victimization was that of anger (41% of incidents). In another 22% of incidents, victims felt upset, confused or frustrated, while in 12% of incidents, victims felt annoyed. No emotional impact was cited in one out of five household victimization incidents (20%).

A break and enter into the home generally evoked more negative emotions than other types of household victimization. For instance, victims of break and enter were nearly four times as likely as other household crime victims to be fearful as a result of the experience (19% of incidents compared to 5% for household thefts and 6% for vandalism and motor vehicle theft). Break and enter incidents were also most likely to make victims more cautious (13%) and feel more victimized (11%). Vandalism, however, was more likely to produce feelings of anger among victims (46% of incidents).

Most stolen items are never recovered

The GSS asked questions on whether household victimization incidents resulted in the loss or damage of property either through theft or vandalism. In some cases, incidents were not completed and are considered attempts.

Among the three theft-related offences, property was lost in about 8 out of 10 incidents. This represents an increase from 1999, when about 7 in 10 theft-related offences involved stolen property. The likelihood that items were stolen was highest for thefts of household property, where only 2% were attempts. In other words, property was taken in virtually all incidents of theft of household property (98%). For break and enter and theft of motor vehicle/parts, households suffered a property loss in over half of incidents (58% and 57%, respectively).

When property is stolen, the impact on victims can be even more severe when items are never recovered. Irreplaceable items that go unrecovered can cause additional emotional upset, while the process of replacing goods can involve time spent filing insurance claims, compiling lists of property loss, waiting for any compensation, and buying new items. In 12% of incidents, stolen property was partially or fully recovered and returned to the victim. The successful recovery of stolen property nearly doubled when it involved the theft of motor vehicles or parts (21%). Research has suggested that recovered vehicles are often those that are stolen for the purpose of joyriding, transportation, or to aid in the commission of another crime (Wallace, 2004). Those stolen vehicles that are never recovered may have been stolen as part of a larger criminal network and are therefore more difficult to locate.

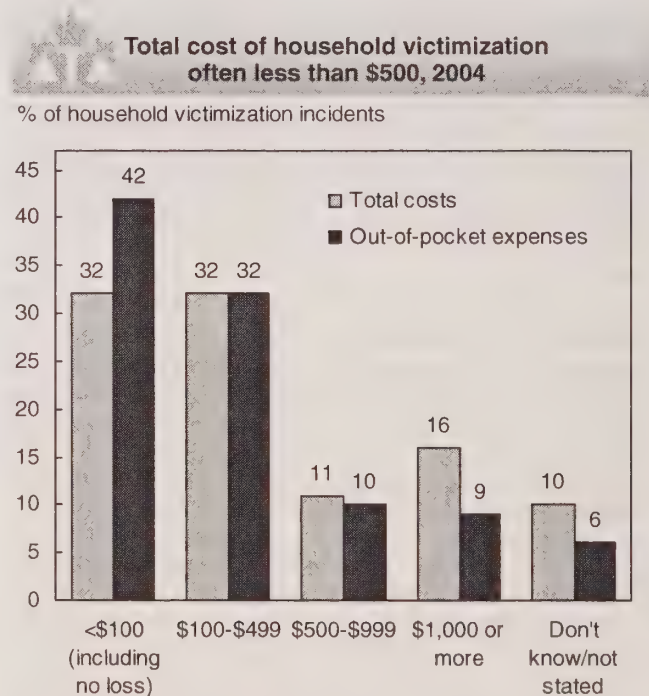
Damage or destruction of personal and/or household property as a result of vandalism or other types of household victimization can have similar consequences to having property stolen. Often, damaged items must be repaired or replaced. By definition, all cases of vandalism resulted in damage to property.

Majority of victims lose under \$500

In nearly two-thirds of incidents (63%), the economic loss resulting from household victimization was less than \$500. In fact in 10% of incidents, households did not suffer any financial consequence from the experience. The relatively small amount of financial loss may be explained by the fact that 28% of break and enter incidents and 43% of theft of motor vehicles or parts were attempts.

The impact of financial loss is also tempered by compensation from insurance or other sources. In other words, the actual loss to victims decreases when accounting for successful insurance claims and other types of reimbursement, such as settlements received through criminal or civil courts. By factoring in compensation, the percentage of incidents where victims incurred losses of more than \$500 decreased from 27% of incidents to 19%. Meanwhile victims who lost less than \$100 grew from 32% of incidents to 42% (Figure 10).

Figure 10



Notes: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Total costs include all costs associated with the incident, while out-of-pocket costs are total costs less any compensation through insurance or other sources.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

29. According to the 2004 GSS, 56% of thefts of motor vehicle or parts took place at the person's residence. This compares to 62% of vandalism incidents, 68% of thefts of household property, and 100% of break and enters.

Not all victims are covered by insurance. Among incidents where the victims suffered some type of financial loss, 24% did not have insurance. Victims of household property theft were least likely to be insured (38% of incidents), followed by victims of break and enter (25%). In contrast, victims were insured in 91% of incidents of motor vehicle thefts/parts, reflecting the fact that provincial laws require some type of vehicle insurance. In addition, a high percentage (85%) of vandalism victims were covered, perhaps signalling that home owners, who are most at risk of vandalism, also tend to have higher rates of insurance coverage.

Overall, fewer victims of household victimization are turning to insurance companies to deal with their monetary losses. In 21% of incidents where people were covered under insurance, the victims sought compensation. This is lower than the proportion in both 1999 (31%) and 1993 (42%). One explanation may be the increase in insurance deductibles over this period.

Not surprisingly, the greater the dollar amount lost, the greater the likelihood that victims will attempt to obtain compensation through insurance.³⁰ In 62% of incidents with a loss of \$1,000 or more, victims filed an insurance claim. This compares to 23% of household victimization incidents with a loss between \$500 and \$999 and 5% with losses under \$500.

In three out of four incidents, victims who filed an insurance claim were successful. About 17% of cases did not result in compensation and 8% of cases at the time of the survey were not yet resolved.

Reporting household crimes to police

Incidents more likely to be reported when property loss is high

Closely linked to filing claims to insurance companies is reporting victimization to police. In order to obtain compensation, insurers often require a police report to process a claim. In 2004, about 4 in 10 incidents of household victimizations (37%) came to the attention of police (Table 5). This seemingly low rate of reporting can be partly explained by the fact that no items were actually taken in 21% of theft-related household crime offences.

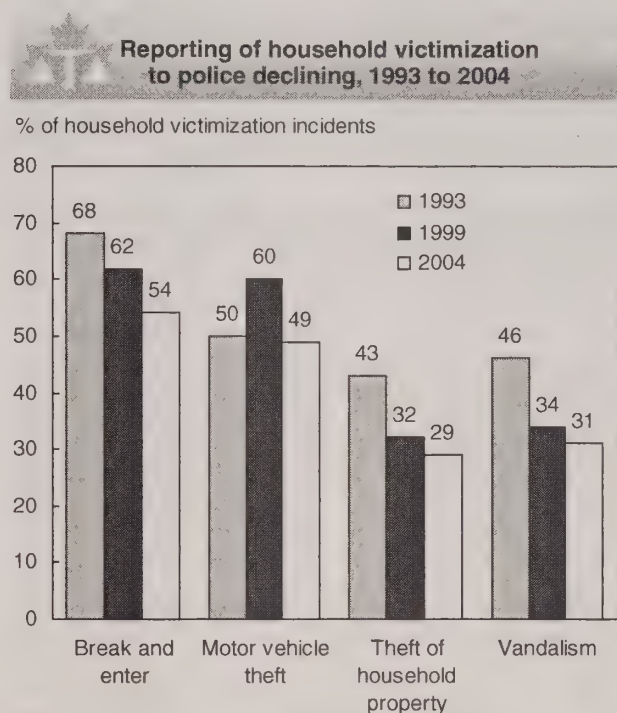
When incidents do result in a significant financial loss, people are more likely to turn to the police. For example, reporting to police occurred in 8 out of 10 incidents involving a loss of property valued at \$1,000 or greater. This proportion is more than double the reporting rate when the property stolen or damaged was valued at \$200 to \$499 (32%), and five times greater than when losses were between \$1 and \$100 (15%).

The type of offence also plays a role in whether incidents are reported to police. Break and enter and motor vehicle/parts theft incidents had the highest rates of reporting to police, with about half being reported to police (54% and 49%, respectively) (Table 5). When losses totalled \$1,000 or more, reporting rates rose to 84% for break and enter and 89% for theft of motor vehicles or parts.

Fewer victims reporting household crimes

The proportion of incidents involving police intervention has decreased from 1999 for two of the four household offences – break and enter and theft of motor vehicles/parts. Reporting break and enter continued a downward trend that began in 1993, whereas reporting to police changed course for theft of motor vehicles/parts (Figure 11). Rates for thefts of motor vehicle/parts dropped after increasing in 1999 and have returned to levels recorded in 1993.³¹ In comparison, the rate of reporting for theft of household property and vandalism remained unchanged between 1999 and 2004.

Figure 11



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993, 1999 and 2004.

Desire for compensation leading reason for reporting among victims with losses of \$1,000 or more

Victims have different reasons for contacting the police. Based on the four household offences, the most common response was that victims felt that it was their duty to tell police, which was named as a reason in 84% of cases.³² A desire to "arrest or punish" the offender was next at 62%, followed by a wish

30. Includes only those people who are covered by insurance.

31. In 1999, the increase in reporting to police for thefts of motor vehicle/parts thefts appeared to be primarily driven by reporting of parts thefts.

32. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for contacting the police. Therefore, percentages will not total 100%.

to obtain compensation through insurance or other sources (51%) or to stop the incident (41%). Only 12% of victims said it was because someone recommended that they make a police report.

Victims who suffered the greatest financial losses were most likely to say they reported the incident because they wanted compensation or wanted the offender arrested. For example, in 75% of incidents with losses of \$1,000 or more, victims reported the crime to police for insurance reasons. This compares to 57% of incidents where property loss totalled \$500 to \$999, and 28% of incidents with losses between \$100 and \$499. Victims wanted the offender caught and arrested in 72% of incidents involving a loss of \$1,000 and over versus 57% of incidents with a loss between \$100 and \$499.

A desire to stop the incident was more likely cited as a reason for reporting among victims who lost under \$100 compared to other victims. There were no other significant differences in reasons for reporting by value of property lost.

Police conducted an investigation in three out of every four reported household crimes

In violent crimes, police can sometimes intervene during or soon after the incident has occurred. This is rarely the case in incidents of household victimization. Victims of household crimes most often discover property has been stolen or damaged after the fact. Police are much less likely to find the accused on the scene of household crime incidents and, therefore, victims of household crimes are less likely than violent crime victims to see police deal directly with the accused. Based on those household incidents that were reported to police, victims were aware of police giving a warning to the offender in less than 10% of incidents (compared to 37% of violent victimizations). Another 5% of incidents involved taking the offender away, arresting or laying charges (compared to 30% of violent victimizations).

Conducting an investigation was by far the most frequent police action, with about 76% of household crime incidents reported to the police resulting in a police investigation. In just over half (54%) of household victimization incidents, the police visited the scene. This proportion increased to 71% when it involved a break and enter into the home.

Two out of three victims of reported household crimes were satisfied with police actions

In two-thirds of household victimizations reported to police, victims were satisfied with the handling of their case. More specifically, in 28% of incidents, victims were very satisfied with police actions, while in 40%, victims were somewhat satisfied. Satisfaction levels were relatively similar for all four types of household offences. Identical proportions of incidents had victims who were either somewhat or very dissatisfied with the actions taken by police (14% each).

Text box 8

Victims of household victimization more likely to want to participate in victim-offender mediation programs

There are a number of ways to deal with a criminal incident outside of the traditional police-court process, including victim-offender mediation programs. Victim-offender mediation programs aim to address the needs of both the victim and the offender and usually involve a formal meeting where the victim and offender meet to discuss an appropriate method of repairing the harm caused by the victimization. Meetings are face-to-face and involve a trained mediator.

All respondents who reported a victimization incident were asked whether they would have been interested in participating in a victim-offender mediation program. Similar to what was found in 1999, in almost one-half of incidents (48%) the victim indicated that they would have been willing to meet with the perpetrator in order to discuss the best method to repair the harm done, while 50% said that they would not have been interested at all.

It was also found that significant differences in the level of interest exist between victims of violent offences and victims of non-violent offences. For example, in two-thirds of violent incidents (65%), the victim was not at all interested in mediation with the offender compared to 44% of non-violent offences. Unwillingness to participate in such a program was especially evident in the case of sexual assault incidents, where in 72% of sexual assault incidents, the victim said that they were not at all interested. Overall, those most willing to participate in a mediation program were victims of vandalism.

While there was little difference expressed by male and female victims (in 47% of incidents, male victims were interested in participating in mediation, compared to 51% of incidents involving female victims), age is linked to interest in participation. Specifically, it was found that older victims were more interested in meeting with the perpetrator through a mediation program than were younger victims. For example, while in 58% of incidents, victims aged 55 to 64 years were very, somewhat, or slightly interested in participating, this was the case for only 42% of incidents involving victims aged 15 to 24 years.

"Incident not important enough" was common reason for not reporting

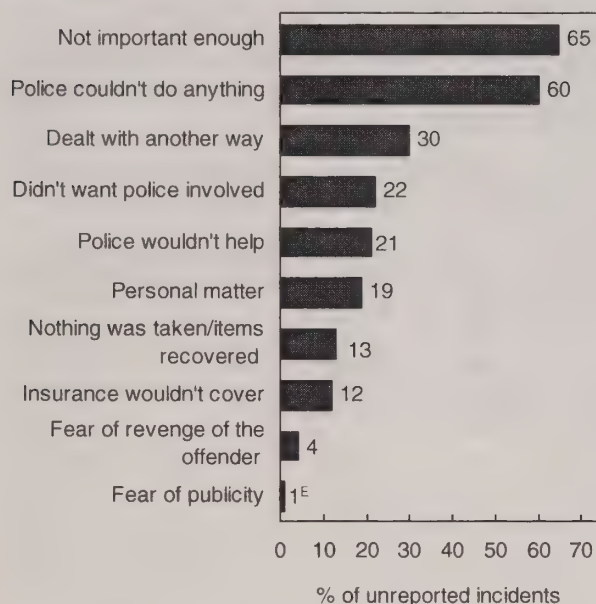
In two-thirds of household victimization incidents, victims stated that the incident was not important enough to involve the police (Figure 12).³³ Almost as common among victims of household offences was the reason that "police couldn't do anything" (60%).

Besides the top two reasons, in 30% of household offences, victims stated that they dealt with the experience in another way, 22% did not want to involve the police and 21% thought that the police would not help. The incident was considered a personal matter and not a concern of police in one out of five cases. Issues relating to the nature and extent of financial loss were also reasons for not turning to police. In 13% of incidents, victims did not report because nothing was ever taken or the items were recovered, and in 12% of incidents, victims felt that insurance would not cover it.

33. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for not reporting incidents to police. Therefore, percentages will not total 100%.

Figure 12

Most common reason for not reporting household victimization was "incident was not important enough", 2004



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
^E use with caution

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

When asked to give a main reason for not reporting incidents to police, the two most common reasons again were that the incident was not important enough (43%) and that the police couldn't do anything (25%). Differences start to emerge when considering the value of property stolen or damaged. Victims of household victimization were less likely to say that the incident was "not important enough" when the value of property lost was considerable. For instance, in 60% of incidents with a property loss of \$1 to \$100, victims said that the incident was too minor to bring to the attention of police. This reason drops in prevalence to 24% for incidents with a property loss of \$500 to \$999 and 9% for losses of \$1,000 or greater.

On the other hand, as the dollar value of the property stolen or damaged increased, feelings that police could not do anything became a more common reason for not reporting. In one-third of incidents involving a loss of \$1,000 or more, victims chose not to report the household victimization based on the belief that the police could not do anything. This compares to 16% of incidents with a loss under \$100.

There were also some variations in reasons for not reporting based on the type of household victimization. Theft of household property victims were more likely than other victims to feel that the incident was too minor to report, while victims of vandalism were more likely to say that police couldn't do anything to help.

Methodology

In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fourth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the extent to which people experience incidences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, and measure fear of crime and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

Households in the 10 provinces were selected using Random Digit Dialing (RDD). Once a household was chosen, an individual 15 years or older was selected randomly to respond to the survey. Households without telephones, households with only cellular phone service, and individuals living in institutions were excluded. These groups combined represented 4% of the target population. This figure is not large enough to significantly change the estimates.

The sample size in 2004 was about 24,000 households, similar to the sample size in 1999 (26,000) and considerably higher than the sample in 1993 and 1988 (10,000 each).

Data collection

Data collection took place from January to December 2004 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 12 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was conducted by phone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 30 minutes.

Response rates

Of the 31,895 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 18 sample, 23,766 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 75%. Types of non-responses included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French.

Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over. Each person who responded to the 2004 GSS represented roughly 1,000 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. The difference between the estimate obtained from the sample and the one resulting from a complete count is called the sampling error of the estimate. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is used.

Using the 2004 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.8 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

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Table 1

Number and rate of victimization by province, 2004¹

	Canada ²	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Number of incidents (000s)											
Total violent	2,751	38^E	9^E	122	72	365	1,124	128	106	410	378
Sexual assault	546	8 ^E	F	31 ^E	11 ^E	67 ^E	253	32	17	54	72
Robbery	274	F	F	13 ^E	F	45 ^E	111 ^E	18	13	42	20
Physical assault	1,931	28 ^E	F	78	52 ^E	252	759	78	75	315	286
Theft of personal property	2,408	24	11^E	65	54	358	1,032	98	76	247	443
Number of incidents (000s)											
Total household	3,206	27	9	91	53	476	1,119	186	168	414	663
Break and enter	505	4 ^E	1 ^E	13	7	97	163	34	31	57	97
Motor vehicle/parts theft	571	5 ^E	1 ^E	17	9	94	183	32	26	73	132
Theft of household property	1,136	8	4 ^E	32 ^E	22	154	414	63	61	150	229
Vandalism	993	10	3 ^E	29 ^E	15	132	359	58	50	135	205
Rate per 1,000 population 15+											
Total violent	106	87^E	78^E	157	116	59	112	139	134	160	108
Sexual assault	21	19 ^E	F	40 ^E	18 ^E	11 ^E	25	35 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E
Robbery	11	F	F	17 ^E	F	7 ^E	11 ^E	20 ^E	17 ^E	16 ^E	6 ^E
Physical assault	75	65 ^E	F	101	83 ^E	41	76	85	96	123	82
Theft of personal property	93	55	95^E	84	87	58	103	106	96	97	127
Rate per 1,000 households											
Total household	248	127	158	232	169	147	233	403	406	331	376
Break and enter	39	18 ^E	21 ^E	34	22	30	34	73	76	46	55
Motor vehicle/parts theft	44	25 ^E	21 ^E	42	27	29	38	69	63	58	75
Theft of household property	88	39	69 ^E	82 ^E	71	47	86	136	147	120	130
Vandalism	77	46	48 ^E	73 ^E	49	41	75	125	120	108	116

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E Use with caution.

F too unreliable to be published.

1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut, which were collected as part of a pilot test.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 2

Number and rate of victimization by Census Metropolitan Area, 2004¹

	Total violent victimization		Total household victimization		Theft of personal property	
	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 population 15+	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 households	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 population 15+
CMA²						
St. John's	10 ^E	70 ^E	14	202	13 ^E	93 ^E
Halifax	71	229	46	293	40 ^E	130 ^E
Saint John	17 ^E	173 ^E	11	232	F	F
Saguenay	F	F	6 ^E	99 ^E	F	F
Québec	33 ^E	55 ^E	49	157	41 ^E	69 ^E
Sherbrooke	F	F	8 ^E	115 ^E	3	25
Trois-Rivières	F	F	11 ^E	146 ^E	82 ^E	61 ^E
Montréal	189	64	269	175	211	72
Ottawa-Gatineau	134 ^E	143 ^E	110	234	83 ^E	89 ^E
Kingston	F	F	17 ^E	282 ^E	F	F
Oshawa	44 ^E	156 ^E	32 ^E	248 ^E	36 ^E	130 ^E
Toronto	451	107	426	222	451	107
Hamilton	66 ^E	114 ^E	71	248	66 ^E	115 ^E
St. Catharines-Niagara	F	F	36 ^E	217 ^E	F	F
Kitchener	59 ^E	162 ^E	44	242	31 ^E	85 ^E
London	F	F	76	398	40 ^E	105 ^E
Windsor	F	F	42 ^E	339 ^E	F	F
Sudbury	F	F	13 ^E	220 ^E	F	F
Thunder Bay	F	F	17 ^E	322 ^E	F	F
Winnipeg	84	155	131	487	73	135
Regina	27 ^E	173 ^E	35	424	19 ^E	120 ^E
Saskatoon	27 ^E	146 ^E	54	572	18 ^E	98 ^E
Calgary	137 ^E	161 ^E	125	307	65	77
Edmonton	154 ^E	191 ^E	145	361	79 ^E	98 ^E
Abbotsford	F	F	31 ^E	561 ^E	F	F
Vancouver	194	107	413	462	246	136
Victoria	40 ^E	148 ^E	26 ^E	181 ^E	30 ^E	112 ^E

^E Use with caution.

F too unreliable to be published.

1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. A CMA (census metropolitan area) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 3

Number and rate of violent victimization by victim characteristics, 2004¹

Victim characteristics	Number of incidents				Rate per 1,000 population			
	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault
Total	2,752	547	274	1,931	106	21	11	75
Sex								
Females	1,339	460	104 ^E	775	102	35	8 ^E	59
Males	1,412	86 ^E	170	1,156	111	7 ^E	13	91
Age (years)								
15 to 24	967	243	142	581	226	57	33	136
25 to 34	692	133	46 ^E	513	157	30	10 ^E	116
35 to 44	595	102	44 ^E	449	115	20	8 ^E	87
45 to 54	296	37 ^E	31 ^E	229	62	8 ^E	6 ^E	48
55 to 64	153	25 ^E	F	120 ^E	45	7 ^E	F	36 ^E
65 and over	48 ^E	F	F	39 ^E	12 ^E	F	F	10 ^E
Marital status								
Married	689	87 ^E	45 ^E	558	52	7 ^E	3 ^E	42
Common law	352	44 ^E	22 ^E	286	131	16 ^E	8 ^E	106
Single	1,386	339	182	866	203	50	27	127
Widow or widower	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Separated or divorced	285	70 ^E	23 ^E	192	159	39 ^E	13 ^E	107
Don't know/not stated	F	0	F	F				
Main activity								
Working at a job	1,701	267	158	1,276	114	18	11	85
Looking for work	86 ^E	9	17	60 ^E	207 ^E	F	F	145 ^E
A student	586	178	70 ^E	338	183	56	22 ^E	106
Household work ²	154	31 ^E	F	118	78	15 ^E	F	60
Retired	80 ^E	F	F	56 ^E	18 ^E	F	F	13 ^E
Other ³	101 ^E	33 ^E	13 ^E	55 ^E	167 ^E	55 ^E	21 ^E	91 ^E
Don't know/not stated	43 ^E	F	F	27				
Evening activities (# per month)								
Less than 10	277	52 ^E	F	209	44	8 ^E	F	33
10 to 19	459	81 ^E	28 ^E	350	77	14 ^E	5 ^E	59
20 to 29	525	105	57 ^E	363	104	21	11 ^E	72
30 and more	1,491	309	174	1,009	174	36	20	118
Don't know/not stated	0	0	0	0				
Household income (\$)								
0 to 14,999	177	43 ^E	19 ^E	115	156	38 ^E	17 ^E	102
15,000 to 29,999	277	64 ^E	32 ^E	180	104	24 ^E	12 ^E	68
30,000 to 39,999	236	42 ^E	F	174	105	19 ^E	F	77
40,000 to 59,999	418	95	30 ^E	293	94	21	7 ^E	66
60,000 and over	997	155	82 ^E	759	106	16	9 ^E	80
Don't know/not stated	647	147 ^E	92 ^E	409				
Location of home								
Urban	2,307	469	32	1,596	112	23	12	77
Rural	445	78 ^E	242 ^E	335	84	15 ^E	6 ^E	64

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Includes taking care of children and maternity/paternity leave.

3. Includes long-term illness and volunteering.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 4

Profile of the accused in violent incidents, 2004¹

	Total violent		Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault	
	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Incident characteristics								
Total	2,109	100	512	100	274	100	1,323	100
Number of accused								
One	1,595	76	457	89	159	58	979	74
More than one	460	22	31 ^E	6 ^E	107	39	321	24
Don't know/not stated	32 ^E	2 ^E	F	F	8 ^E	3 ^E	23 ^E	2 ^E
Sex of accused²								
Male	1,395	87	414	91	140	88	841	86
Female	194	12	43 ^E	9 ^E	19 ^E	12 ^E	132	14
Don't know/not stated	F	F	F	F	0	0	F	F
Age of accused²								
Under 12 years	37 ^E	2 ^E	0	0	F	F	37 ^E	4 ^E
12 to 17	204	13	F	F	24 ^E	15 ^E	165	17
18 to 34	803	50	248	54	90	57	465	47
35 to 54 ¹	443	28	143	31	38 ^E	24 ^E	261	27
55 and over	77	5	39 ^E	9 ^E	F	F	36 ^E	4 ^E
Don't know/not stated	30 ^E	2 ^E	F	F	F	F	F	F

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Based on incidents with a single accused.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 5

Victimization incidents reported to the police, 2004¹

	Total no. of incidents	Incidents reported to the police ²		Incidents not reported to the police		Don't know/not stated	
	(000s)	(000s)	%	(000s)	%	(000s)	%
Total	7,723	2,613	34	4,962	64	148	2
Total violent	2,109	687	33	1,381	56	41^E	1^E
Sexual assault	512	42 ^E	8 ^E	448	88	F	F
Robbery	274	127	46	144	53	F	F
Physical assault	1,323	519	39	789	60	16 ^E	1 ^E
Total household	3,206	1,188	37	1,958	61	59	2
Break and enter	505	275	54	223	44	7	1
Motor vehicle/parts theft	571	281	49	285	50	5	1
Theft household property	1,136	330	29	786	69	20	2
Vandalism	993	303	31	664	67	26	3
Theft personal property	2,408	738	31	1,623	67	47^E	- 2^E

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Includes incidents reported by the victim or by someone else.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6

Number and rate of household victimization by household characteristics, 2004

	Number of incidents (000s)					Rate per 1,000 households				
	Total household victimization	Break and enter	Motor vehicle theft/parts theft	Theft of household property	Vandalism	Total household victimization	Break and enter	Motor vehicle theft/parts theft	Theft of household property	Vandalism
Total	3,206	505	571	1,136	993	248	39	44	88	77
Location of home										
Urban	2,786	434	497	994	861	269	42	48	96	83
Rural	420	72	74	142	132	164	28	29	56	51
Household income (\$)										
0 to 14,999	136	34	18	50	33	160	41	21 ^E	59	39
15,000 to 29,999	363	59	68	137	99	223	36	42	84	60
30,000 to 39,999	317	61	49	115	92	257	50	39	93	74
40,000 to 59,999	599	91	111	208	189	267	41	49	93	84
60,000 and over	1,229	171	231	425	402	300	42	56	104	98
Don't know/not stated	561	88	94	201	179					
Household size										
1 person	611	125	96	210	180	178	37	28	61	53
2 persons	961	144	173	323	321	219	33	39	74	73
3 persons	658	89	122	233	213	317	43	59	112	103
4 or more persons	977	147	181	370	279	323	49	60	123	92
Type of home										
Single detached	1,902	293	346	648	617	247	38	45	84	80
Semi-detached, row house, or duplex	584	82	83	236	182	323	45	46	131	101
Apartment	614	110	124	218	162	213	38	43	76	56
Other	62	11	9	23	18	215	39 ^E	32 ^E	82 ^E	61 ^E
Don't know/not stated	43	9	9	10	15					
Ownership of home										
Owned	2,140	309	377	737	718	242	35	43	83	81
Rented	1,020	187	186	387	260	267	49	49	101	68
Don't know/not stated	45	9	9	11	15					

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

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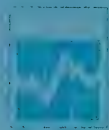
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Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04

by Karen Beattie

Highlights

- The overall rate of incarceration was 130 per 100,000 adults in 2003/04, down slightly (-3%) from 2002/03 (134).
- On an average day in 2003/04, there were approximately 154,600 adults in custody or under community supervision, a decline of 3% from 2002/03. The majority (79%) were being supervised in the community on probation (101,000), conditional sentence (13,600) or on provincial/territorial or federal community release (8,000). The remaining 21% were being held in provincial/territorial sentenced custody (9,800), federal custody (12,600), remand (9,200) or in temporary detention status (360).
- Remand counts continue to increase, rising 5% from 2002/03 (8,700) to 2003/04 (9,200), while provincial/territorial sentenced custody counts have dropped, falling 7% from 10,600 in 2002/03 to 9,800 in 2003/04.
- Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the total adult correctional services population in Canada has increased by almost 5%. The average number of offenders under community supervision has increased by nearly 8%, while the custodial population decreased by 5%.
- The average count of offenders on provincial parole has decreased 13% from 2002/03, more than 53% since 1999/00 and by 76% in the last 10 years.
- The average count of offenders on conditional sentences rose 3% from 2002/03 and was 43% higher than in 1999/00.
- In 2003/04, there were nearly 358,400 admissions to correctional services, 2% lower than 2002/03. Over one-third (34%) of all admissions were to remand, followed by provincial/territorial sentenced custody (23%) and probation (22%).
- Remand admissions remained unchanged from 2002/03, but have increased by 10% from 1999/00. Admissions to other temporary detention have increased 9% from 2002/03 to 2003/04 and by 90% since 1999/00. Admissions to provincial/territorial and federal custody decreased by 4% from 2002/03 and by 7% since 1999/00.
- Federal releases increased by 4% for day parole and 15% for full parole between 2002/03 and 2003/04, halting a downward trend of more than a decade.
- In 2003/04, conditional sentence admissions decreased 2% from 2002/03, the first decrease in the number of admissions since the introduction of the conditional sentence in 1996. Probation admissions decreased for the second year in a row, down 5% between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- In 2003/04, women represented 10% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 6% of admissions to federal custody, 11% of admissions to remand, and 17% of probation commencements and conditional sentence admissions.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of all females and one-in-five males (20%) admitted to sentenced custody were Aboriginal. Overall, the proportion of sentenced admissions to provincial/territorial custody represented by Aboriginal people remained stable at 21% between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Correctional services expenditures totalled \$2.7 billion in 2003/04, down 3% in constant dollars from 2002/03. Custodial services accounted for the largest proportion (72%) of the expenditures, followed by community supervision services (14%), headquarters and central services (13%), and National Parole Board and provincial parole boards (2%).



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides information on the adult correctional system, including trends in the supervision of adults in custody and in the community, as well as the cost of these services, during the 2003/04 fiscal year¹.

The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correctional services in Canada, which include custody (sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention) and community-based sentences as well as statutory release and parole supervision. Correctional services agencies at both levels work toward the same goals- the protection of society as well as the rehabilitation of offenders and their safe reintegration into communities.

Adult offenders sentenced to custody terms of two years or more fall under the federal penitentiary system. Federal correctional services are provided by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. While the CSC is responsible for the administration of sentences and supervision of offenders, decisions to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke parole are made by the National Parole Board (NPB), which is also an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The NPB operates at the federal level and in the provinces and territories that do not have their own parole board.

Text box 1

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey for correctional services conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Admissions and releases data for Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan are taken from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) that is being implemented and which will eventually replace the ACS survey.

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the average number or count of offenders on any given day and the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Counts of the number of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as a key operational measure for the utilization of services, such as bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facilities and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Average counts are more likely to include individuals serving longer sentences, and therefore, average count statistics are more representative of longer term inmates and offenders serving longer term community supervision orders.

Admissions data are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseload in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the ACS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of the *Juristat*.

1. See the *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04 data tables report*, Catalogue No. 85-211-XIE, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2005 for more detailed tables.

Custody sentences of less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation and conditional sentences, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories, as are pre-trial detention (remand) and other forms of temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds). In addition, three jurisdictions – Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia – have their own parole boards and are authorized to grant releases to offenders serving less than two years in prison. (See the section on definitions at the end of the *Juristat* for a description of the different types of sentences and releases).

Correctional system average counts decline in 2003/04

On average, there were approximately 154,600 adults under custodial or community supervision on any given day in 2003/04, a decline of 3% from 2002/03. An average of 32,000 offenders were in custody (21%), including 22,500 (15%) sentenced inmates in federal or provincial/territorial custody, approximately 9,200 (6%) on remand and about 360 (<1%) held in other temporary detention, such as immigration holds (Text table 1).

On average, approximately 8 in 10 adults in the correctional system (122,600 offenders) were supervised in the community on any given day in 2003/04 (Text table 1). Nearly 101,000 of these offenders were on probation (65%), 13,600 were serving a conditional sentence (9%) and 5% were on provincial/territorial conditional release (i.e., provincial parole) or federal conditional release (i.e., day parole, full parole or statutory release).

Text table 1



Composition of average count of the adult correctional population, 2002/03 to 2003/04

Correctional services	2002/03		2003/04		% change from 2002/03
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Custodial supervision:					
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	10,607 ^r	6.7	9,844	6.4	-7.2
Remand	8,727 ^r	5.5	9,160	5.9	5.0
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	351 ^r	0.2	361	0.2	3.1
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,685 ^r	12.4	19,366	12.5	-1.6
Federal custody, sentenced	12,838	8.1	12,641	8.2	-1.5
Total custodial supervision	32,523^r	20.5	32,007	20.7	-1.6
Community supervision:					
Probation	105,061 ^r	66.1	100,993	65.3	-3.9
Provincial parole	1,014	0.6	885	0.6	-12.7
Conditional sentences	13,193 ^r	8.3	13,632	8.8	3.3
Total provincial community supervision	119,268 ^r	75.0	115,510	74.7	-3.2
Community releases (CSC) ¹	7,222	4.5	7,089	4.6	-1.8
Total community supervision	126,490^r	79.5	122,599	79.3	-3.1
Total correctional services	159,013^r	100.0	154,606	100.0	-2.8

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Totals may not add due to rounding.
Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

^r revised

1. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Remand counts continue to rise

In 2003/04, almost 9,200 persons were on remand on any given day, an increase of 5% from 2002/03. All jurisdictions reported increases in the average count of persons on remand, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador (-2%), Nova Scotia (-5%) and Saskatchewan (-4%). The largest increases occurred in Manitoba (+15%) and Alberta (+19%) (See Text table 2).

The average daily count of adults on remand has been steadily increasing since approximately the mid 1980s. In the past decade since 1994/95, the average daily remand count has increased by 72%, or from approximately 5,300 to 9,200 persons. During this time period, average counts increased in all jurisdictions, ranging from 21% in Quebec to 201% in Manitoba (Text table 2).

As is the case with remand, the average daily count of adults in other temporary detention has also increased substantially in the last decade. In 2003/04, the average count of individuals in other temporary detention on any given day was 3% higher than in 2002/03 (Text table 1) and has increased by 81% since 1994/95 (Text Table 3).²

- Because of missing data for some years between 1994/95 and 2003/04, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia, all community supervision data from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as conditional sentence data from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, have been excluded in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics is based upon adjusted average counts (See Text table 3).

Text table 2

Variation in the average count of persons in provincial and territorial sentenced custody and on remand between 1994/95 and 2003/04

Province or territory	Sentenced custody					Remand ¹				
	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04	% change 02/03-03/04	% change 94/95-03/04	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04	% change 02/03-03/04	% change 94/95-03/04
Newfoundland and Labrador	354	232	210	-9.8	-40.8	39	51	50	-2.4	27.2
Prince Edward Island	84	56	51	-9.4	-39.6	11	18	18	3.3	67.3
Nova Scotia	373	150 ^r	153	2.0	-59.0	66	121 ^r	115	-5.0	74.2
New Brunswick	376	204	203	-0.5	-46.0	43	94	95	1.1	120.9
Quebec	2,334	2,280 ^r	2,283	0.1	-2.2	1,219	1,437	1,475	2.6	21.0
Ontario	4,619	3,438	2,957	-14.0	-36.0	2,507	4,373	4,490	2.7	79.1
Manitoba	703	560	515	-8.1	-26.7	237	620	714	15.2	201.3
Saskatchewan	1,076	867	826	-4.7	-23.2	164	346	331	-4.3	101.8
Alberta	2,215	1,322	1,220	-7.7	-44.9	497	794	941	18.5	89.3
British Columbia	1,874	1,210	1,146	-5.3	-38.8	487	798	847	6.1	73.8
Yukon	54	27	25	-6.9	-53.4	15	24	27	10.1	77.7
Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) ²	255	261 ^r	256	-1.7	0.4	42	52 ^r	58	12.6	38.1
Provincial/territorial total	14,317	10,607^r	9,844	-7.2	-31.2	5,327	8,727^r	9,160	5.0	72.0

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

^r revised

1. Remand counts may include other temporary detention counts.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text box 2

The impact of remand on the correctional population

Under the influence of increasing numbers of remand admissions and increasingly long periods of stay on remand, the average number of persons being held on remand on any given day in Canada has increased dramatically, rising 72% over the past decade. This increase poses numerous challenges for provincial/territorial corrections systems.

In a recent CCJS report on the status of remand between 1986/87 and 2000/01, it was noted that remand inmates have distinct needs that set them apart from sentenced inmates. Remanded persons are often under considerable stress and are in a situation of uncertainty, not knowing if or when they may be convicted of the offence for which they have been charged. The personal circumstances which may have precipitated their criminal incident, such as mental illness or drug/alcohol abuse may not be resolved. Further, under the judicial interim release provisions of the *Criminal Code*, the accused may have already been deemed to be at risk to the public or of absconding. Traditional rewards for good behaviour such as remission and the granting of temporary absence passes are not applicable to remands. Because of these factors, persons on remand are generally considered high risk and are usually held in maximum security settings. Maximum security bed space is comparably expensive to build and maintain and its availability is limited. Furthermore, since remanded persons are awaiting trial and require regular transportation to and

from court, remand bed spaces need to be in close proximity to courts (Johnson, 2003).¹

Administratively, remanded inmates are detained for relatively shorter periods of time compared to the average sentenced offender. The remand stay is often punctuated by frequent court appearances, with no guarantee of the inmate returning to the facility after court appearances. High volume turnover with frequent movements create additional administrative burden in handling these inmates.

Another consideration with respect to pre-trial detention is the impact of custodial remand on the accused. Individuals who spend time in remand may have little or no access to activities such as recreation, work and rehabilitative programs and services (John Howard Society of Ontario, 2002). Provincial correctional facilities are designed and programmed primarily for inmates serving short sentences, such as 50 to 100 days, but not long-term remands. Structured programming (e.g., substance abuse treatment, anger management, etc.) usually requires a minimum time commitment whereas time on remand is indeterminate and frequently short in duration. In some instances the inmate may avoid programming so as not to jeopardize his or her case in court. For example, a remanded person charged with impaired driving may choose not to become involved in alcohol abuse treatment in order to avoid the appearance of acknowledging an alcohol abuse problem.

1. In some jurisdictions, video conferencing for bail and remand hearings have been introduced to address some of the issues related to proximity and transportation to court, as well as the security of individuals.

The increase in the average daily count of adults in non-sentenced custody (i.e. remand and temporary detention) has translated into a fundamental change in the composition of the custodial population. While, on average, 16% of all adults supervised in custody were on remand or other temporary detention on a given day in 1994/95, almost twice as many were held in non-sentenced custody in 2003/04 (30%) (Text table 3). In the provincial/territorial system exclusively, the proportional representation of adults in non-sentenced custody relative to other types of provincial/territorial correctional supervision varied, ranging from 2% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 9% in Quebec and Manitoba in 2003/04. All jurisdictions except for Quebec recorded increases in the proportional representation of adults in non-sentenced custody since 1994/95 (See Text table 4).

Counts of sentenced custody offenders continue to decline

Since 1994/95, the number of offenders in provincial/territorial sentenced custody has significantly declined (-31%), from

14,300 to 9,800 (Figure 1). All jurisdictions except for Nunavut and Northwest Territories reported decreases in the average count of offenders held in sentenced custody since 1994/95, ranging from a 2% decline in Quebec to a 59% decline in Nova Scotia (Text table 2). In combination with the growth in non-sentenced custody counts, the proportional share of provincial/territorial sentenced offenders among the total custodial population has decreased during this time period, from 42% in 1994/95, to 37% in 1999/00, to 31% in 2003/04 (Text table 3).

Shifting composition of offenders in provincial/territorial custody

As noted, the average count of offenders in provincial/territorial sentenced custody has been declining for more than a decade. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the average count of provincial/territorial sentenced offenders declined by 31% (Text table 3). At the same time, remand counts have increased by 72% and other temporary detention counts have increased by 81%. As a result, sentenced custody offenders accounted for

Text table 3

Composition of the adult correctional population, average counts, 1994/95, 1999/00, and 2003/04

	1994/95			1999/00			2003/04			% change in adjusted average count	
	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	from 1999/00	from 1994/95
Correctional services											
Custodial supervision:											
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	14,316	14,316	9.8	11,438 ^r	11,438	7.5	9,844	9,844	6.4	-13.9	-31.2
Remand ²	5,327	5,327	3.6	6,665	6,665	4.4	9,160	9,160	6.0	37.4	72.0
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	168	168	0.1	531 ^r	265	0.2	361	304	0.2	15.0	81.2
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,811	19,811	13.5	18,633 ^r	18,367	12.0	19,366	19,309	12.6	5.1	-2.5
Federal custody, sentenced	13,948	13,948	9.5	12,974	12,974	8.5	12,641	12,641	8.2	-2.6	-9.4
Total custodial supervision	33,759	33,759	23.0	31,607^r	31,341	20.5	32,007	31,950	20.8	1.9	-5.4
Community supervision:											
Probation	100,955	99,834	68.1	102,860	102,860	67.1	100,993	100,993	65.7	-1.8	1.2
Provincial parole	3,676	3,676	2.5	1,900	1,900	1.2	885	885	0.6	-53.4	-75.9
Conditional sentences	...	...	...	8,984	8,984	5.9	13,632	12,874	8.4	43.3	...
Total provincial community supervision	104,631	103,510	70.6	113,745	113,745	74.3	115,510	114,752	74.6	0.9	10.9
Community releases (CSC ³)	9,422	9,422	6.4	8,100	8,100	5.3	7,089	7,089	4.6	-12.5	-24.8
Total community supervision	114,053	112,932	77.0	121,845	121,845	79.5	122,599	121,841	79.2	0.0	7.9
Total correctional services	147,812	146,691	100.0	153,452^r	153,186	100.0	154,606	153,791	100.0	0.4	4.8

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Totals may not add due to rounding.
Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

^r revised
... not applicable

1. Because of missing data for some years, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia, all community supervision data from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as conditional sentence data from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, have been excluded from the "Adjusted Average Count" in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics are based upon adjusted average counts.

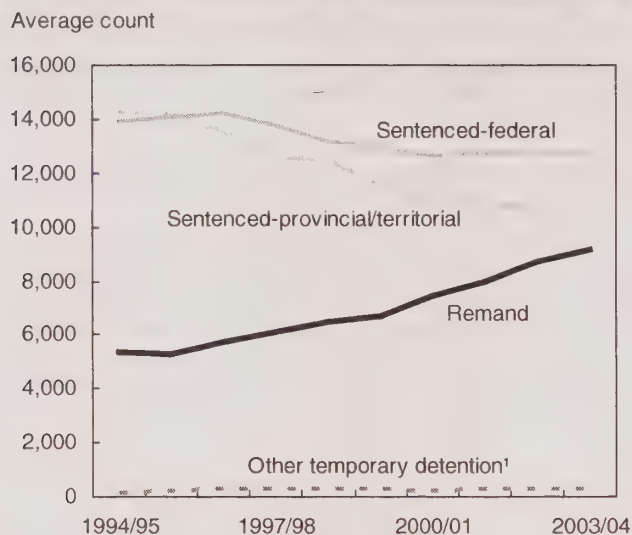
2. Figures for remand may include counts for other temporary detention.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Figure 1

Average count of adults in sentenced custody has declined while the average count of remanded adults has increased, 1994/95 to 2003/04



1. Due to missing data for some years, other temporary detention data from British Columbia and Manitoba have been excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

a smaller proportion of all individuals in custody in 2003/04 (31%) compared to 1994/95 (42%) while the proportional representation of individuals in remand or other temporary detention nearly doubled during the same time period (from 16% to 30%).

Several factors contribute to this trend. The drop in police-reported crime during the 1990s and the decline in the number of adults charged has reduced the number of persons in court and who have received a prison sentence.³ The implementation of the Conditional Sentence in 1996 provided the courts with a community-based alternative to imprisonment, and has had a direct impact on the decline in the number of sentenced prison admissions (Statistics Canada, 2003). A third factor is the crediting of time served on remand during sentencing.

Judges may, at their discretion, credit an offender with the time spent on remand when determining a sentence. While there is no precise formula for the court to calculate the appropriate amount of time spent in pre-trial custody, and while the amount of credited time rests with the sentencing judge, a general rule of a 2 to 1 ratio of remand served to sentence given has been considered appropriate (Martin's Criminal Code, 2004). In spite of this, judges may also credit time served at a rate that is greater than, or less than, the 2 to 1 ratio.

Since most offenders receiving 'time served' sentences are released at court and do not return to custody they therefore do not become part of the sentenced custody caseload of the

corrections system. Instead, the concluding status of these offenders would remain remand. Increases in the prevalence of 'time served' sentences will therefore contribute to a decrease in the sentenced custody caseload numbers relative to the remand caseload (Johnson, 2003).

Although there are currently no comprehensive data available to fully explain the practice of granting time served on remand by the courts or the amount of time served being credited, Corrections officials have identified the granting of time served as an important factor influencing current remand and sentencing trends.

Conditional sentences counts still rising

The average count of offenders on conditional sentence in 2003/04, of approximately 13,600, was 3% higher than in 2002/03 (Text table 1). Conditional sentences are the only supervised community legal status where there was an increase in the average count of offenders in 2003/04. All jurisdictions reported increases or no change in the average count of offenders on conditional sentence except for Manitoba (-6%) and Yukon (-2%).

In addition to an increase in the average count, offenders on conditional sentences continue to comprise a significant and growing proportion of the population under community supervision. In 2003/04, offenders on conditional sentences represented 11% of the population under community supervision, compared to 7% in 1999/00. Overall, the average count of offenders on conditional sentence increased by 43% since 1999/00 (Text table 3).

Probation counts fluctuate

In 2003/04, the average count of offenders on probation declined by 4% from 105,000 in 2002/03 to 101,000 in 2003/04 (Text table 1). Most jurisdictions reported decreases or little change in the average count of offenders on probation from 2002/03 although there was variation among the provinces/territories. The largest decreases were reported in Yukon (-15%) and in Manitoba and British Columbia (-8%) while the largest increase was reported in Prince Edward Island (+31%). Since 1994/95, there has been no consistent trend in probation average counts. However, the proportional presentation of probationers in the provincial/territorial system has decreased from 84% of offenders in 1994/95 to 75% in 2003/04 (Text table 4).

Provincial parole continues to decrease

As a consequence of the large declines in the use of provincial parole, the average count has continued to decrease. In 2003/04, there were, on average, about 890 persons on provincial parole on any given day, down by nearly 13% from 2002/03 (Text table 1), by more than 53% since 1999/00 and

3. For more information on crime rate and sentencing trends, see Sauvé, J. 2005. "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004" Juristat. Catalogue no: 85-002 XPE. Vol. 25, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada and Thomas, M. 2004. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics 2003/04" Juristat. Catalogue no: 85-002 XPE. Vol. 24, No. 12. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Text table 4

Distribution of average count of offenders in provincial/territorial correctional service programs, 1994/95, 1999/00 and 2003/04

Jurisdiction		P/T Sentenced Custody		Remand/Other Temp. Detention		Probation		Conditional Sentence		Total ¹
		No.	Proportion of corr. services count	No.	Proportion of corr. services count	No.	Proportion of corr. services count	No.	Proportion of corr. services count	No.
Newfoundland and Labrador	1994/95	354	11.7	39	1.3	2,620	87.0	...	...	3,013
	1999/00	222	8.2	55	2.0	2,260	83.2	180	6.6	2,718
	2003/04	210	8.4	60	2.4	2,069	83.2	149	6.0	2,488
Prince Edward Island	1994/95	84	10.6	11	1.4	700	88.1	...	...	795
	1999/00	71	...	11	...	713	...	...	...	795
	2003/04	51	6.2	24	3.0	717	88.1	22	2.7	814
Nova Scotia	1994/95	373	8.0	66	1.4	4,227	90.6	...	...	4,666
	1999/00	247	...	103	...	4,614	...	...	...	4,964
	2003/04	153	3.2	143	3.0	4,045	85.1	411	8.6	4,752
New Brunswick	1994/95	376	12.4	54	1.8	2,602	85.8	...	...	3,032
	1999/00	244	...	75	...	2,416	...	...	...	2,735
	2003/04	203	7.4	106	3.9	2,101	76.8	325	11.9	2,735
Quebec	1994/95	2,334	19.4	1,219	10.1	8,500	70.5	...	...	12,053
	1999/00	2,010 ^r	14.4	1,114 ^r	8.0	7,925	56.9	2,876	20.7	13,926
	2003/04	2,283	14.2	1,475	9.2	8,839	54.9	3,495	21.7	16,092
Ontario	1994/95	4,619	7.9	2,663	4.6	51,080	87.5	...	...	58,362
	1999/00	4,003	6.5	3,357	5.4	52,013	84.1	2,488	4.0	61,861
	2003/04	2,957	4.6	4,725	7.3	53,641	82.6	3,598	5.5	64,921
Manitoba ²	1994/95	703	10.9	238	3.7	5,482	85.3	...	...	6,423
	1999/00	603	7.9	495	6.5	5,997	78.6	534	7.0	7,629
	2003/04	515	6.4	714	8.8	6,029	74.4	841	10.4	8,099
Saskatchewan	1994/95	1,076	23.6	164	3.6	3,329	72.9	...	...	4,569
	1999/00	854	14.9	290	5.1	3,720	64.8	877	15.3	5,741
	2003/04	826	12.5	345	5.2	4,181	63.2	1,263	19.1	6,615
Alberta	1994/95	2,215	21.9	497	4.9	7,385	73.1	...	...	10,097
	1999/00	1,430	13.0	539	4.9	8,311	75.4	749	6.8	11,029
	2003/04	1,220	10.5	941	8.1	7,949	68.5	1,489	12.8	11,599
British Columbia ²	1994/95	1,874	11.9	487	3.1	13,452	85.1	...	...	15,813
	1999/00	1,467	8.2	821	4.6	14,453	80.4	1,241	6.9	17,982
	2003/04	1,146	7.6	847	5.6	11,137	73.6	2,003	13.2	15,133
Yukon	1994/95	54	10.3	15	2.9	457	86.9	...	...	526
	1999/00	43	8.0	18	3.4	438	81.4	39	7.2	538
	2003/04	25	6.7	27	7.1	285	76.4	36	9.7	373
Northwest Territories ³	1994/95	255	18.0	42	3.0	1,121	79.1	...	...	1,418
	1999/00	207	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	236
	2003/04	194	...	31	...	...	...	...	...	225
Nunavut	1994/95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1999/00	36	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	57
	2003/04	62	...	27	...	...	...	...	...	89
Total¹	1994/95	14,317	11.9	5,495	4.6	100,955	83.6	...	...	120,767
	1999/00	11,438^r	8.8	6,929^r	5.3	102,860	79.0	8,984	6.9	130,212
	2003/04	9,844	7.4	9,464	7.1	100,993	75.4	13,632	10.2	133,934

Note: Total count used in proportion calculations includes Provincial/territorial sentenced custody, Remand, Other temporary detention, Probation, and Conditional Sentences (where applicable after 1996).

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Includes all available data per category.

2. Other temporary detention data unavailable, and is therefore excluded from the total.

3. Data for Northwest Territories in 1994/95 also include Nunavut data for that year, while subsequent years do not.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

by 76% in the last ten years (Text table 3). These declines can mainly be attributed to large decreases in provincial parole counts in Quebec (-57%) and Ontario (-64%) that occurred between 1999/00 and 2003/04 compared to a smaller decrease in British Columbia (-7%) during the same time period. As Text table 3 illustrates, the share of the total correction population represented by offenders on provincial parole has declined, from 3% in 1994/95 to less than 1% in 2003/04.

Incarceration rate decreases

In 2003/04, the adult incarceration rate was at its lowest level since 1981/82. For every 100,000 adults in 2003/04, 130 were incarcerated, 3% lower than the rate of 134 per 100,000 adult population in 1981/82 and 2002/03 (Text table 5). The adult incarceration rate is calculated as the daily average number of incarcerated adults (sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention) for every 100,000 adults in Canada (see Table 1 for Adult Population figures). The incarceration rate has declined 16% since 1994/95 (155 per 100,000). Although both provincial/territorial and federal incarceration rates have contributed to this decrease, the rate of decline has been larger in the federal system since 1994/95 (-20%) than in the provincial/territorial systems (-13%).

In 2003/04, the overall provincial/territorial incarceration rate was 79 per 100,000 adult population, down 2 points from 2002/03 (Text table 5). Among the provinces there was substantial variability in incarceration rates in 2003/04, ranging from 40 in Nova Scotia to 157 in Saskatchewan. In

the territories, incarceration rates were much higher (220 in Yukon and 677 in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). The provincial/territorial incarceration rate declined or remained relatively unchanged from 2002/03 in all jurisdictions, except for Manitoba which reported an increase of 3%. Between 1999/00 and 2003/04, there has been a great deal of variability in the change in the incarceration rates among the jurisdictions. British Columbia reported a decline of 24% while in Quebec, where the incarceration rate still remains lower in all but two jurisdictions, the incarceration rate increased by 16%. During the same five year period, the federal rate of incarceration decreased by 8%.

Admissions to correctional services declined in 2003/04

In 2003/04, there were approximately 358,400 admissions to correctional service programs, a decrease of 2% from 2002/03.⁴ Approximately 70% of admissions were to custody while the remaining 30% were to community supervision. One-third of all admissions to correctional services were to remand (34%), followed by provincial/territorial sentenced custody (23%) and probation (22%). Approximately 2% of admissions were to federal custody (Text table 6).

4. See Text box 1 'Data sources and measures', earlier in this report for a definition of admissions. See Text table 6 for percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

Text table 5

Variation in adult incarceration rates over time, provincial, territorial and federal correctional services, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Province	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	% change from 2002/03 to 2003/04	% change from 1999/00 to 2003/04
	rate per 100,000 adult population ¹						
Newfoundland and Labrador	67	70	78	72	65	-8.9	-3.0
Prince Edward Island	80	83	63	75	71	-6.2	-11.9
Nova Scotia	48	47	43	40	40	-0.7	-17.3
New Brunswick	55	48	53	53	52	-2.2	-5.1
Quebec	55	56	61	63	63	0.1	15.6
Ontario	84	85	86	87	81	-6.1	-3.2
Manitoba	129	130	129	136	140	3.2	8.6
Saskatchewan	154	152	154	163	157	-3.9	2.3
Alberta	90	85	91	90	90	0.3	0.5
British Columbia	82	79	69	64	63	-2.0	-24.0
Yukon	274	237	239	226	220	-2.9	-19.7
Northwest Territories & Nunavut ²	684	646	640	687	677	-1.6	-1.0
Provincial/territorial total	80	80 ^r	81 ^r	81	79	-2.9	-1.8
Federal total	56	54	53	53	51	-2.8	-7.9
Total	136	134^r	134^r	134	130	-2.9	-4.3

Note: Rates have been rounded; however, the percent change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

^r revised

1. Average number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention per 100,000 adult population.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text table 6

Composition of admissions to the adult correctional population, 2002/03 to 2003/04

Correctional services	2002/03		2003/04		% change from 2002/03
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Custodial supervision:					
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	84,660 ^r	23.2	81,138	22.6	-4.2
Remand	124,346 ^r	34.2	123,401	34.4	-0.8
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	35,163 ^r	9.7	38,376	10.7	9.1
Total provincial/territorial custody	244,169 ^r	67.0	242,915	67.8	-0.5
Federal custody, sentenced	7,737	2.1	7,577	2.1	-2.1
Total custodial supervision	251,906^r	69.2	250,492	69.9	-0.6
Community supervision:					
Probation	83,394 ^r	22.9	79,626	22.2	-4.5
Provincial parole	2,024	0.6	1,860	0.5	-8.1
Conditional sentences	19,221 ^r	5.3	18,857	5.3	-1.9
Total provincial community supervision	104,639 ^r	28.8	100,343	28.0	-4.1
Community releases (CSC) ¹	7,377 ^r	2.0	7,515	2.1	1.9
Total community supervision	112,016^r	30.8	107,858	30.1	-3.7
Total correctional services	363,922^r	100.0	358,350	100.0	-1.5

^r revised

1. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Total admissions to correctional supervision were 3% fewer in 2003/04 than in 1994/95. This decrease is largely attributed to a decline in the number of custodial admissions (-10%), especially to sentenced custody (-32%). Despite an overall decline in the number of admissions in the past decade, total admissions to correctional supervision increased by 6% since 1999/00, a rise which is influenced by increases in the number of admissions to both custody (+6%) and community supervision (+5%). Specifically, there have been increases in the number of provincial/territorial admissions to remand (+10%), other temporary detention (+90%), and conditional sentence (+17%) since 1999/00 (Text table 7).⁵

Admissions to custody

Changes in remand admissions vary by jurisdiction

In 2003/04, there were approximately 123,400 remand admissions, accounting for one-half of all provincial/territorial custody admissions. The number of admissions to remand is unchanged from 2002/03 (Text table 6). However, there was substantial variation among the provinces and territories. Several jurisdictions experienced a decrease in the number of remand admissions in 2003/04, most notably - Prince Edward Island (-29%), Manitoba (-4%), and the Northwest Territories (-13%). Nonetheless, several jurisdictions had substantial increases in remand admissions - Nova Scotia (+14%), New Brunswick (+8%), and the Yukon (+10%) (Table 2).

In 2003/04, there were approximately 38,400 other temporary detention admissions, an increase of 9% from 2002/03 (Text table 6). Among those jurisdictions where other temporary detention data are available, all jurisdictions except for Nova Scotia, Quebec and Saskatchewan reported increases in the number of admissions to temporary detention, ranging from an increase of 2% in New Brunswick to a 21% increase in Manitoba (See Table 2 for year to year change).

Non-sentenced custody continues to increase

Overall, non-sentenced admissions (i.e. remand and other temporary detention) have accounted for a growing proportion of all custodial admissions over the last decade, from 49% in 1994/95, to 55% in 1999/00 and 61% in 2003/04. Since 1994/95, the total number of non-sentenced admissions to custody in the provincial/territorial system has increased by 13%, or from 117,400 to 132,000 admissions (Text table 7). More specifically, admissions to other temporary detention have nearly doubled since 1999/00 (+90%). These increases may be due, in part, to an increase in the number of immigration holds after the events on September 11, 2001, and due to changes in judicial practices in the use of temporary detention (e.g., judicial assessment orders).

5. Due to missing data for some years, all data from Manitoba, other temporary detention data from New Brunswick and British Columbia, and community supervision data from Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage changes are based upon adjusted admissions (see Text table 7 for these adjusted admissions).

Text table 7

Composition of the adult correctional population, admissions, 1994/95, 1999/00, and 2003/04

Correctional services	1994/95			1999/00			2003/04			% change in adjusted admissions	
	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	from 1999/00	from 1994/95
Custodial supervision:											
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	117,938	114,902	34.8	86,885	83,601	27.5	81,138	77,999	24.4	-6.7	-32.1
Remand ²	112,671	107,753	32.6	111,392	104,825	34.5	123,401	115,128	36.0	9.8	6.8
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	11,470	9,616	2.9	21,563	8,908	2.9	38,376	16,913	5.3	89.9	75.9
Total provincial/territorial custody	242,079	232,271	70.3	219,840	197,334	64.9	242,915	210,040	65.6	6.4	-9.6
Federal custody, sentenced	9,079	9,079	2.7	7,906	7,906	2.6	7,577	7,577	2.4	-4.2	-16.5
Total custodial supervision	251,158	241,350	73.0	227,746	205,240	67.5	250,492	217,617	68.0	6.0	-9.8
Community supervision:											
Probation	78,887	75,277	22.8	72,789	72,789	23.9	79,626	75,325	23.5	3.5	0.1
Provincial parole	6,485	6,485	2.0	3,355	3,355	1.1	1,860	1,860	0.6	-44.6	-71.3
Conditional sentences	...	...	...	15,792	15,208	5.0	18,857	17,790	5.6	17.0	...
Total provincial community supervision	85,372	81,762	24.7	91,936	91,352	30.0	100,343	94,975	29.7	4.0	16.2
Community releases (CSC ³)	7,406	7,406	2.2	7,647	7,647	2.5	7,515	7,515	2.3	-1.7	1.5
Total community supervision	92,778	89,168	27.0	99,583	98,999	32.5	107,858	102,490	32.0	3.5	14.9
Total correctional services	343,936	330,518	100.0	327,329	304,239	100.0	358,350	320,107	100.0	5.2	-3.1

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

... not applicable

1. Because of missing data for some years, all data from Manitoba, other temporary detention data from New Brunswick and British Columbia, and community supervision data from Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from "Adjusted Admissions" in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics are based upon adjusted admissions.

2. Figures for remand may include admissions for other temporary detention.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

More than half of all remanded individuals held for less than a week

More than half of all individuals who were remanded in custody in 2003/04 were held for less than a week (55%). However, the length of remand differed by jurisdiction. Lengthy remands were most common in Newfoundland and Labrador, where 83% of remanded offenders had served more than one week, followed by Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, where 68% of remands in both jurisdictions had served more than one week. In comparison, remands of more than a week were less common in Nova Scotia (19%) and in Quebec (28%). In 2003/04, 45% of offenders were remanded for more than one week, relatively unchanged compared to the proportion in 1999/00 (44%).

Although there has been little change in the average length of remand in recent years, there have been changes in the number of individuals serving a remand term of one year or more. In 2003/04, 1,010 individuals were released from remand with time served of more than 365 days, up from 296

individuals in 1994/95, representing an increase of 241%. In contrast, the number of individuals released from remand with time served of less than 365 days during the same time period increased by 24%.

Cases in Canada's adult criminal courts have become more complex and are taking more time to resolve. According to data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), cases involving multiple charges accounted for 51% of the adult courts caseload in 2003/04, up from 44% in 1994/95. In addition, the time required to dispose of court cases continued to grow. In 2003/04, on average, cases took 226 days compared with 137 days a decade earlier while the average processing time for multiple-charge cases rose from 157 days to 236 days (Thomas, 2004).

Admissions to sentenced custody decreased

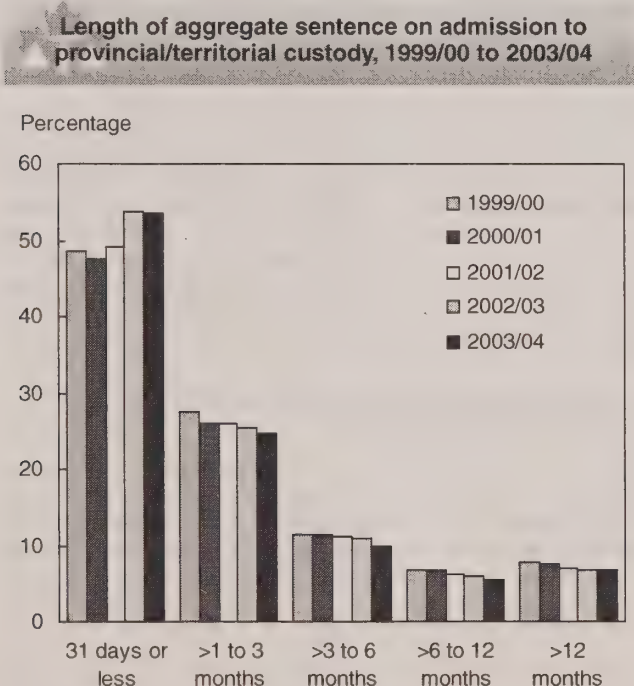
While non-sentenced admissions increased, admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody decreased by 4%, from 84,700 in 2002/03 to 81,100 in 2003/04 (Text table 6).

All jurisdictions reported decreases, except for Newfoundland, Alberta and British Columbia where the number of sentenced custody admissions remained stable. The largest decreases were found in Nunavut (-29%), Prince Edward Island (-18%), Quebec (-11%) and the Northwest Territories (-10%) (Table 2). Since 1994/95, provincial/territorial sentenced custody admissions have declined by one-third (32%). Admissions to federal custody also decreased by 17% over the decade (Text table 7).

Offenders spending shorter periods in sentenced custody

Aggregate sentence lengths for those admitted to sentenced custody have been decreasing in both the provincial and federal systems. In the provincial/territorial system, 54% of offenders were admitted with aggregate sentences of 31 days or less in 2003/04, compared to 49% in 1999/00 (Figure 2). The proportion of offenders admitted with aggregate sentences of 12 months or more remained relatively unchanged in 2003/04 (7%) compared to 1999/00 (8%).

Figure 2



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

In the federal system, shorter sentences of two to three years are the most prevalent, and their occurrence has increased substantially in the last five years. The proportion of offenders admitted to federal custody on sentences of two to three years rose from 42% in 1999/00 to 55% in 2003/04. In addition, while the proportion of offenders admitted to federal custody on sentences of three to four years has remained unchanged, the

proportion admitted with sentences of four to five years dropped from 12% to 9% between 1990/00 and 2003/04. Moreover, the proportion of those admitted with sentences of five to ten years in duration has dropped from 17% to 11%. While admissions with sentences of 10 years or more, including life sentences, continue to represent a very small proportion of all admissions to the federal system, the proportion dropped slightly from 7% to 5% of offenders between 1999/00 and 2003/04.

Substantial variability in offence profiles of admissions across jurisdictions in 2003/04⁶

Most offenders admitted to sentenced custody in 2003/04 were sentenced under the provisions of the *Criminal Code*. Among the jurisdictions, there were considerable differences in the types of offences for which an offender was admitted to custody (Table 3). In 2003/04, *Criminal Code* provisions accounted for 80% or more of all sentenced custody admissions in all jurisdictions, with the exception of Quebec (45%). Sentenced custody admissions for violent offences were most common in Manitoba (57%), the Northwest Territories (57%) and Nunavut (76%). In contrast, admission to custody for other *Criminal Code* offences⁷, such as failure to comply with an order, unlawfully at large or offences against public order, were most prevalent in Nova Scotia (36%), and Saskatchewan (40%). In Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, roughly the same proportion of offenders was admitted for violent offences, property crimes and other offences (25% to 29%). In Quebec, 48% of sentenced admissions were for provincial/territorial statutes and municipal by-laws⁸ whereas, in Prince Edward Island, 59% of all sentenced admissions to custody were for impaired driving offences. This finding is consistent with data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) which found that 91% of all impaired driving convictions in Prince Edward Island resulted in incarceration in 2003/04 (Thomas, 2004).

Admissions to community supervision

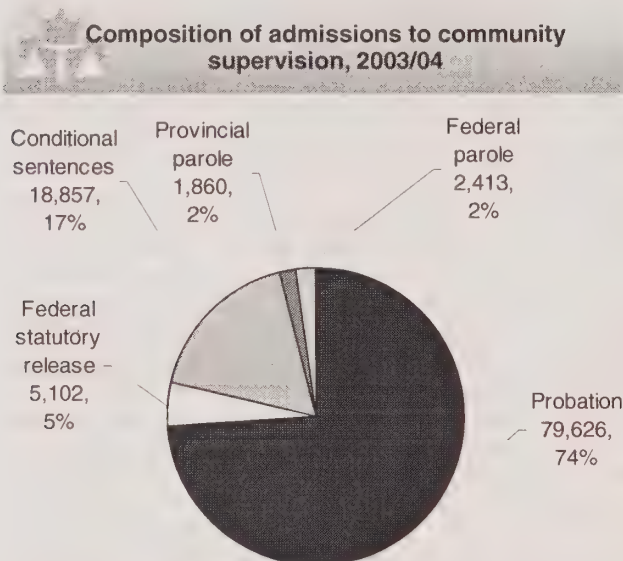
In 2003/04 there were approximately 107,900 admissions to community supervision, 4% fewer than in 2002/03. The bulk of these admissions were in the provincial/territorial system with almost 100,300 admissions to probation, provincial parole or conditional sentence. The remaining 7,500 community admissions were comprised of releases to federal day parole, full parole and statutory release (Text table 6).

6. In the Adult Correctional Services Survey, when there is more than one offence leading to incarceration, only data related to the most serious offence in the case is recorded (except in Alberta and Yukon, which uses multiple charge data to record all offences, and British Columbia which uses the most serious disposition methodology). The following jurisdictional analysis includes only those jurisdictions employing the most serious offence methodology.
7. Other *Criminal Code* incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences), for example, mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.
8. In situations where fines are levied, the offender can be incarcerated for non-payment or, if already incarcerated, seek to serve a custodial sentence in lieu of payment of fines.

Probation admissions decline in 2003/04

Probation is by far the largest category of community supervision, accounting for approximately three-quarters (74%) of all admissions to community supervision (Figure 3). In 2003/04 there were 79,600 admissions to probation, 5% fewer than in 2002/03. All jurisdictions showed a decrease except for Nova Scotia, Quebec and Nunavut (+4%). The largest decreases were found in Yukon (-20%) and British Columbia (-13%) (Table 4).

Figure 3



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Length of probation terms increasing

In 2003/04, 81% of probation terms were between 12 months and 24 months (inclusive) in length, up from 73% in 1999/00. Probation lengths of more than 18 months and less than 24 months increased from 2% of all probation terms to 7%, while terms of 24 months accounted for 19% in 2003/04 compared to 15% in 1999/00. At the same time, admissions to probation with the longest terms – more than two years – decreased to 4%, down from 15% in 2002/03 and 7% in 1999/00.

Almost half of probation intakes admitted with violent offences

Overall, admissions to probation are more often related to a violent offence than other offences (Table 5). Nearly half of all admissions to probation were for violent offences (46%), followed by property offences (26%) and other *Criminal Code* violations (17%). Between 1999/00 and 2003/04, the proportion of probation admissions with a violent offence increased slightly, from 42% to 46%, while at the same time, property crime admissions accounted for a larger proportion in

1999/00 (31%) compared to 2003/04 (26%). Violent offences represented the largest proportion of admissions to probation in 2003/04 in all jurisdictions except Quebec, where property offences accounted for a slightly larger proportion of admissions (34%) than violent offences (31%). The proportion of probation admissions for Other *Criminal Code*⁹ offences ranged from 13% in Ontario to 30% in Nova Scotia.

Conditional sentence admissions decrease slightly

In 2003/04, there were approximately 18,900 conditional sentence admissions, representing 17% of all admissions to community supervision (Figure 3). Conditional sentence admissions declined by nearly 2% from 2002/03, marking the first annual decrease since the introduction of conditional sentences in 1996/97. In spite of the overall decrease, many jurisdictions showed increases in the number of admissions to conditional sentences, most notably Newfoundland and Labrador (+32%) and Prince Edward Island (+57%). The largest decreases were found in British Columbia (-11%) and Quebec (-8%) (Table 4). Although the small decline in the number of admissions in 2003/04 suggests that admissions to conditional sentences are beginning to stabilize, their impact on the composition of correctional services since their introduction is notable. Since 1999/00, admissions to conditional sentenced increased by more than 17% (Text table 7).

The overall decline in the number of admissions to conditional sentence in 2003/04 is in sharp contrast to the increase in the average count of offenders on conditional sentences (as discussed previously). However, while the number of offenders admitted to a conditional sentence dropped from the year before (-2%), the sentence length upon admission may be increasing, thus influencing the duration of time spent under supervision for a conditional sentence in correctional services, and increasing the average counts.

Use of provincial parole continues to decline; federal parole increases

Provincial parole boards operate in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. In all other jurisdictions, the National Parole Board is responsible for making decisions regarding both day and full parole. In 2003/04, the number of releases to provincial parole declined by 8%, from about 2,020 to 1,860. Over the past decade, the number of community releases from provincial facilities such as day and full parole has generally been declining. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the number of provincial parole releases granted by provincial parole boards decreased by 71%, or from 6,490 to 1,860 releases.

For parole boards in Ontario and Quebec, where data were available, the number of applications to full parole has continued to decline, as has the grant rate for provincial parole. In 2003/04, the grant rate for provincial parole in Quebec

9. Other *Criminal Code* incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences), for example, mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

Text table 8

Grant rates for full and day parole, 1999/00 to 2003/04

	Year	Day parole			Full parole		
		Total applications	Applications granted	Grant rate	Total applications	Applications granted	Grant rate
		number	number	%	number	number	%
National Parole Board							
Federal offenders	1999/00	5,305 ^r	3,839 ^r	72.4	4,992 ^r	2,169 ^r	43.4
	2000/01	4,812	3,460	72.4	4,277 ^r	1,814	42.4
	2001/02	4,427	3,170	71.9	3,842 ^r	1,660 ^r	43.2
	2002/03	4,230 ^r	3,025 ^r	71.5	3,528 ^r	1,504 ^r	42.6
	2003/04	4,193	3,120	74.4	3,550	1,604	45.2
Provincial offenders ¹	1999/00	374	283	75.7	688	419	60.9
	2000/01	309 ^r	218 ^r	70.6 ^r	571	342	59.9
	2001/02	287	184	64.1	463 ^r	261 ^r	56.4 ^r
	2002/03	285	200	70.2	440 ^r	251	57.0 ^r
	2003/04	201	147	73.1	372	243	65.3
Provincial parole boards²							
Quebec	1999/00	.	.	.	3,553	2,333	65.7
	2000/01	.	.	.	3,115	1,731	55.6
	2001/02	.	.	.	2,757	1,323	48.0
	2002/03	.	.	.	2,661	1,267	47.6
	2003/04	.	.	.	2,531	1,181	46.7
Ontario	1999/00	.	.	.	2,523	702	27.8
	2000/01	.	.	.	2,125	584	27.5
	2001/02	.	.	.	1,802	511	28.4
	2002/03	.	.	.	1,265	361	28.5
	2003/04	.	.	.	1,243	271	21.8

. not available for any reference period

^r revised

1. These data represent decisions for provincial/territorial offenders in provinces/territories that do not operate their own parole boards, but who are supervised by Correctional Services Canada.

2. Since no data were available for 1999/00 to 2003/04 for British Columbia, all data was excluded from this table.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

declined from 66% in 1999/00 to 47% in 2003/04, while in Ontario during the same period, the grant rate decreased from 28% to 22% (Text Table 8).

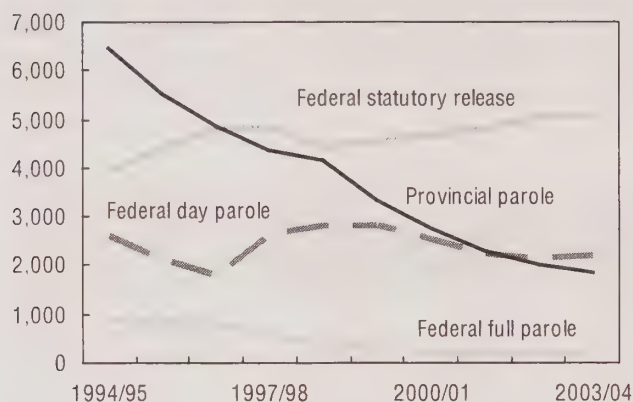
In 2003/04, the number of federal releases from facilities on day parole and full parole increased, halting a downward trend of more than a decade. Specifically, there were about 2,180 day parole releases in 2003/04, a 4% increase from 2002/03 (2,100). Prior to 2002/03, day parole releases had been declining, by 19% since 1994/95 (2,590). A similar trend is also found for the number of releases on full parole. Between 1994/95 and 2002/03, full parole releases from the federal system substantially declined by 78%, or from about 920 to 200 releases. In 2003/04, the number of releases on full parole increased 15% from 2002/03, to approximately 230 releases, representing the first increase in the number of federal releases on full parole since 1995/96 (Figure 4).

Although the use of full parole has increased in 2003/04, full parole continues to represent a small proportion of all federal releases (3%). Full parole release has been declining proportionally for the past ten years, from 12% of federal releases in 1994/95 to 4% in 1999/00 and 3% in 2003/04.¹⁰ Similarly, the use of day parole as a proportion of federal releases has also decreased during this ten year period, from 35% in 1994/95, and 37% in 1999/00 down to 29% in 2003/04. In contrast, statutory releases have increased incrementally since 1994/95. Proportionally, statutory releases accounted for 53% of federal releases in 1994/95, 60% in 1999/00 and slightly more than two-thirds of federal releases in 2003/04 (68%).

10. Releases on warrant expiry and other releases have been excluded from the calculation of this proportion.

Figure 4

Releases of inmates from correctional facilities by type of release, 1994/95 to 2003/04



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Characteristics of offenders admitted to correctional services

In 2003/04, women accounted for 6% of federal admissions to custody, 10% of provincial/territorial sentenced admissions

Text table 9

Characteristics of adult offenders admitted to correctional services, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody			Remand			Probation			Conditional Sentence			Total adult population 2001 Aboriginal (%)
	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median Age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median Age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median Age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median Age ¹	
Newfoundland and Labrador	6	..	32	5	..	28	18	..	32	17	..	33	3
Prince Edward Island	7	2	..	8	5	..	12	..	..	28	..	..	1
Nova Scotia	8	7	32	9	7	32	16	7	34	16	7	32	2
New Brunswick	9	9	30	9	8	30	17	7	30	17	8	31	2
Quebec	10	2	36	9	4	33	14	7	32	13	6	34	1
Ontario	9	9	32	11	9	31	17	6	32	21	8	33	1
Manitoba	7	68	30	12	62	29	19	50	31	19	44	29	11
Saskatchewan	12	80	30	8	77	28	19	67	29	16	72	30	10
Alberta	13	39	31	14	28	29	18	24	..	19	16	..	4
British Columbia	8	20	31	12	22	31	18	19	31	16	17	34	4
Yukon	6	73	30	8	78	30	15	61	32	17	66	34	20
Northwest Territories	7	88	32	3	85	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Nunavut	0	97	37	1	97	37	19	99	..	9	98	..	78
Provincial/territorial total	10	21	...	11	18	...	17	16	...	17	19	...	...
Federal total	6	18	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	10	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. The median age at admission is the age where, if all the people are ordered by age, half of the people are younger and half are older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Census.

and 11% of remand admissions. Among the provinces and territories in 2003/04, there was substantial variation in the proportions of sentenced custody admissions that were female, ranging from none in Nunavut to 13% in Alberta (Text Table 9). These overall proportions have remained relatively stable since 1999/00.

Typically, females account for larger proportions of probation and conditional sentence admissions than custody admissions. In 2003/04, females accounted for 17% of probation intakes, with their representation ranging from 12% in Prince Edward Island to 19% in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut. Similarly, 17% of conditional sentence admissions were female, with substantial variation in their representation among the provinces and territories, ranging from 9% in Nunavut to 28% in Prince Edward Island.

Aboriginal people represent almost one in five admissions to correctional services

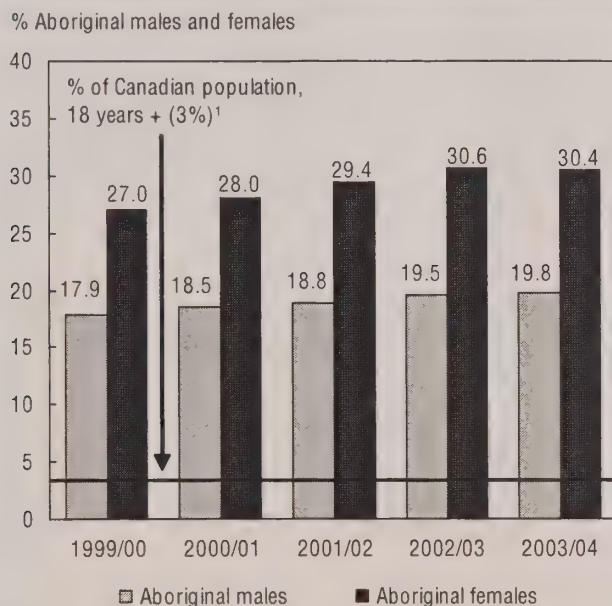
In 2003/04, Aboriginal people accounted for 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 18% of admissions to federal custody, 18% of admissions to remand, 16% of probation admissions and 19% of conditional sentence admissions. At the same time, Aboriginal people represented 3% of the Canadian adult population (Text Table 9). Overall, the representation of Aboriginal people among sentenced custody admissions has increased since 1999/00, from 18% to 21% but has remained stable since 2001/02. The proportions of admissions to probation and remanded custody represented by Aboriginal people have remained relatively stable in recent years.

Aboriginal people had higher levels of representation in sentenced custody compared to their representation in the adult population, most notably in Manitoba (68% versus 11%), Alberta (39% versus 4%), Saskatchewan (80% versus 10%), British Columbia (20% versus 4%) and Ontario (9% versus 1%) (Text table 9). In addition, the proportion of sentenced admissions to custody represented by Aboriginal people has increased in some jurisdictions between 1999/00 and 2003/04, with Manitoba (63% to 68%) and Saskatchewan (75% to 80%) showing the largest increases.

A recent CCJS study, using data from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), explored the extent to which offenders released from provincial correctional services in Saskatchewan in 1999/00 had a re-involvement, or a return to correctional supervision, at a later point in time (by March 31, 2004). The *Juristat* found that 57% of Aboriginal persons compared to 28% of non-Aboriginal persons had returned to correctional services by March 31, 2004 following release in 1999/00. In addition, the study found that the rates of re-involvement increased more rapidly for Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people, with 29% of Aboriginal adults versus 13% of non-Aboriginal adults returning in the first twelve months, over a four-year period following release.¹¹

Figure 6

Aboriginal males and female admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, as a percentage of all males and females, 1999/00 to 2003/04



Note: To allow year-over-year comparisons, data from Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the totals due to missing data for some years.

1. Aboriginal population based on Census data for those jurisdictions with the ability to report sentenced custody admissions between 1999/00 and 2003/04.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS); 2001 Census of Canada Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Higher levels of admissions among Aboriginal people relative to their share of the population is particularly pronounced for Aboriginal women

In 2003/04, Aboriginal women represented 30% of all female admissions to sentenced custody and 27% of female admissions to remand. In contrast, Aboriginal males, accounted for 20% of male sentenced admissions and 17% of male admission to remand. The difference in the proportions of Aboriginal females compared to Aboriginal males occurred in all jurisdictions for both sentenced custody and remand admissions. Since 1999/00, the proportion of sentenced admissions represented by Aboriginal people has increased for both males and females (Figure 6), while remand figures have remained stable.

Adult correctional service operational expenditures

In 2003/04, adult correctional service expenditures totalled \$2.7 billion, a 3% decrease since 2002/03.¹² Slightly more than half of all correctional service expenditures in 2003/04 were in the federal system (53%) while the remaining 47% were in the provincial and territorial systems. Overall, custodial services represented the largest share of expenditures in both the federal (67%) and provincial/territorial systems (79%). Community supervision services accounted for a larger proportion of correctional services in the provincial/territorial system compared to the federal system (17% versus 11%) while expenditures for headquarters and central services were significantly higher in the federal system relative to those in the provincial/territorial system (20% versus 4%) (Table 7).

Federal inmates are typically more costly to house than inmates in the provincial/territorial system. On average, \$240.18 per day was spent on a federal inmate compared to \$141.75 per day at the provincial/territorial level in 2003/04. This difference in inmate costs between the federal and provincial/territorial system is the result of a number of factors, including the higher levels of security required in the federal system as well as the higher costs of incarceration associated with federally sentenced female offenders (Johnson, 2004). In addition, there may be an increased number of treatment programs available to offenders serving longer sentences associated with federal custody (see Text box 2).

Between 2002/03 and 2003/04, the average constant dollar inmate cost in the provinces and territories decreased by 3% (Text Table 10). The average constant dollar inmate cost in 2003/04 was 1% lower than in 1999/00. In the federal system, the average daily federal inmate cost did not change from 2002/03.

11. See Johnson, S. 2005. "Returning to Correctional Services after release: A profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04." *Juristat*. Catalogue no: 85-002-XPE. Vol. 25, No.2. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

12. Trends in expenditures are examined in constant dollars to take inflation into account. Due to missing data from Prince Edward Island for 2003/04, all data have been excluded from previous years for comparison.

Text box 3

Characteristics of persons admitted to adult correctional services, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) is a new person-based survey that is currently being implemented in several jurisdictions across Canada. Currently, person-level data are available for three jurisdictions: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

One important benefit of person-based surveys is the collection of socio-demographic information to describe the population, such as age, Aboriginal identity, marital status, as well as the educational attainment and employment status of the individual. These characteristics from the three jurisdictions currently reporting to the ICSS provide a descriptive picture of the adult correctional system population in their respective jurisdictions.

As an individual can have more than one admission during a fiscal year, these data have been characterized by their most recent admission in a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. Presenting characteristics by the individual's most recent admission eliminates the possibility that these characteristics may change from one admission to another over a period of time. For example, an offender may have improved their education level between two admissions and the most recent admission would document this higher level of education obtained.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan in 2003/04, the majority of offenders admitted to correctional services were single (54%).¹ Nearly one-third of Aboriginal people admitted to correctional services were in a common-law relationship (31%), nearly twice the proportion for non-Aboriginal people (17%) (Table 6).

Compared to the general population, the population in correctional services has a relatively low level of education. For example, almost 30% of the general population in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan aged 25 years and older had less than a high school diploma.² In the corrections population within these jurisdictions, more than half of all adults aged 25 and older had not completed high school (52%). The highest level of education obtained by more than one in five adults over 25 years of age in correctional services was primary school (23%) while 10% had not completed primary school. Low education attainment was more common for Aboriginal adults compared to non-Aboriginal adults. More than double the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in corrections had completed high school or a higher level education compared to non-Aboriginal adults (65% versus 28%). (Table 6 and Figure 5).

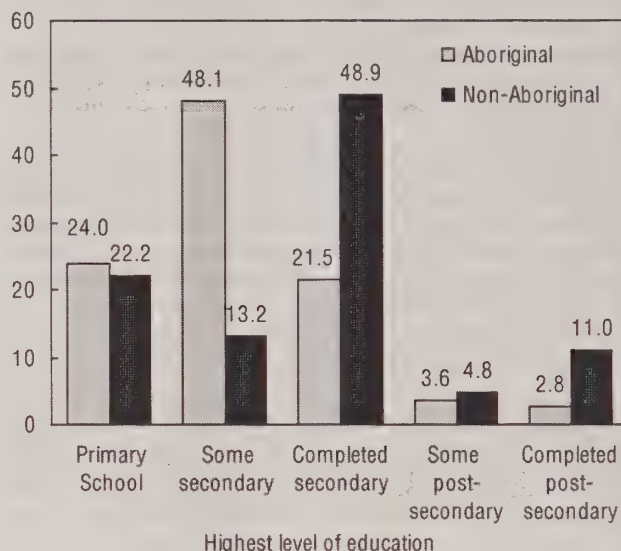
More than four in ten adults involved in corrections in the three reporting jurisdictions were unemployed prior to their most recent admission to correctional services in 2003/04 (45%). Among Aboriginal people, 35% were employed at the time of the most recent admission compared to 47% of non-Aboriginal people. For all offenders, the likelihood of unemployment prior to the most recent involvement in corrections was highest among adult admissions to sentenced custody (50%), and lowest among adults admitted to probation (38%).

When an individual is involved in correctional services, risk and needs assessment tools are often used to determine treatment while under correctional supervision as well as to assess the risk of future offending. The ICSS currently collects data on offender needs in Saskatchewan only. Data are collected for assessed offenders on six needs: attitude, criminal peers and companions (social interaction), drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships (marital/family) and emotional stability of the individual (personal/emotional).³ Needs are presented when the need has been rated as a medium or high level for those who have been assessed in their most recent admission.³

In 2003/04, more than 8 out of 10 individuals in Saskatchewan correctional services were identified as having a medium or high level substance abuse need (82%). Attitude (64%) and social interaction (69%) were also indicated as needs for the majority of individuals,

Non-Aboriginal adults aged 25 and over more likely to have completed secondary school compared to Aboriginal adults, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2003/04¹

Percentage of adults, 25 years +



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

1. Refers to the most recent status of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

followed by employment (54%), family/marital (52%) and personal/emotional (14%).

For all types of criminogenic needs, a larger proportion of Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people were assessed as having a medium or high need in all six categories, except for personal/emotional, where non-Aboriginal people were assessed with a higher need (19% versus 14%). The largest discrepancies between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were for substance abuse (93% versus 73%), social interaction (80% versus 58%), and employment (65% versus 39%) needs.

The criminogenic needs identified among the offender population, as well as the socio-demographic characteristics of the individual, have been attributed to future offending and re-involvement in correctional services (McWinnie and Andrews, 1997). Among the adult offender population in Saskatchewan released from correctional services in 1999/00, males, younger adults and Aboriginal people had higher rates of re-involvement in correctional services within a four year period following release. Moreover, as the number of identified needs rose, rates of re-involvement also increased, for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Offenders with employment indicated as a need area were most likely to return to correctional services (63%), followed by persons with a social interaction need (59%) (Johnson, 2005).

1. Analysis is based on the most recent admission of 13,080 individuals in correctional services in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, excluding 1,997 persons whose Aboriginal identity was unknown. Proportions are presented only for all individuals where characteristics are known and reported. (see Table 6)

2. Census of Canada, 2001.

3. See 'Definitions for information of these needs.

4. Includes only those cases where needs assessments were performed in Saskatchewan, and those where the sex and Aboriginal identity was known (n = a range of 4,823 - 4,826 depending on the need).

Cost of providing community supervision services increasing at a higher rate than custodial services

While the total operating expenditures of custodial services is typically higher than those of community supervision, the cost of providing community supervision services has increased at a higher rate than custodial services (Text table 11). In 2003/04, the operating expenditures for provincial/territorial custodial services were slightly more than \$1 billion, compared to about \$209 million for provincial/territorial community supervision. However, operating expenditures in provincial/territorial custody increased by 3% since 1999/00, compared to an increase of more than 13% for community supervision. One explanation for this increase in community supervision expenditures could be the increase in the population of community supervision offenders with a conditional sentence who require more intensive supervision.

Text box 4

Correctional facilities

In 2003/04, there were 186 correctional facilities across Canada, of which 70 were under federal jurisdiction and 116 were under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. In the federal system in 2003/04, 16 federal community correctional centres were in operation at year end with a capacity of 505 spaces along with 54 federal institutions with 14,155 spaces. This represented approximately 40% of the total institutional capacity in Canada. Since 1999/00, total federal custodial capacity has increased by 5%.

A total operational capacity of 21,398 spaces was reported in 116 provincial and territorial facilities, of which 99 were secure and the remainder (17) were open (minimum security). Since 1999/00, the capacity of the provincial/territorial custodial correctional system increased by nearly 10%.

Text table 10

Operating expenditures and average daily cost of persons in provincial/territorial custody, constant 1992/93 dollars, 1994/95 to 2003/04^{1,2}

	Current dollars		Constant 1992/93 dollars		
	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost	
	\$'000	\$	\$'000	\$	% change
1994/95	812,580	112.92	797,568	110.81	..
1995/96	805,317	112.13	773,874	107.71	-2.8
1996/97	825,386	116.35	779,618	109.87	2.0
1997/98	848,837 ^r	123.29	791,050	114.90	4.6
1998/99 ³	848,547	121.49	783,454	112.18	...
1999/00	883,132 ^r	130.07	797,856	117.50	4.7
2000/01	911,564 ^r	133.36	801,448	117.29	-0.2
2001/02	938,559 ^r	133.92 ^r	807,233	115.15	-1.8
2002/03	1,022,477 ^r	142.88 ^r	853,953	119.37	3.7
2003/04	1,000,838	141.75	820,538	116.19	-2.7
% change from 1999/00 to 2003/04	...	...	2.8	-1.1	...

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Daily inmate cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the 'total days stayed'. 'Total days stay' is based on average daily (actual-in) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating costs constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.

2. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island has been excluded for all years.

3. Prior to 1998/99, the institutional operating costs excluded purchased services. Because of this change in methodology, the percentage change in average daily inmate cost between 1997/98 and 1998/99 has not been calculated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Text table 11

Operating expenditures for provincial/territorial community services, constant 1992/93 dollars, 1994/95 to 2003/04¹

	Current dollars	Constant 1992/93 dollars	
	Operating expenditures	Operating expenditures	
	\$'000	\$'000	% change
1994/95	126,072	123,721	...
1995/96	124,978	120,056	-3.0
1996/97	128,945	121,761	1.4
1997/98	155,712 ^r	145,118	19.2
1998/99	159,069 ^r	146,878	1.2
1999/00	167,158 ^r	151,001 ^r	2.8
2000/01	178,924 ^r	157,365 ^r	4.2
2001/02	192,067 ^r	165,148 ^r	4.9
2002/03	202,787 ^r	169,413 ^r	2.6
2003/04	208,675	171,045	1.0
% change from 1999/00 to 2003/04	...	...	13.3
% change from 1994/95 to 2003/04	...	...	38.3

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been excluded for all years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Definitions

Adults: Persons aged 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence.

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.

2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Incarceration rate: The average daily number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detentions for every 100,000 adults in Canada.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. The court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order in addition to a fine or a sentence of custody.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long term supervision orders. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders past their statutory release date, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the National Parole Board or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night. Federal offenders serving determinate

sentences are eligible to apply for day parole six months prior to their full parole eligibility date or one-sixth of their sentence for cases that meet accelerated parole review criteria.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the National Parole Board or they waive statutory release.

Long-term supervision order: Disposition that came into effect in Canada on August 1, 1997, in which the court can order that the offender be supervised in the community for a period not exceeding 10 years after having served a custody sentence of two years or more.

Most serious offence:

Most serious offence (MSO) – This measure is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which classifies incidents, according to the most serious offence in the incident. The Adult Correctional Services Survey uses the same rule in determining the most serious offence for which an offender is sentenced. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the most serious offence, based on penalties in the *Criminal Code of Canada*, is recorded.

Most serious disposition (MSD) – If an offender receives more than one conviction, the offence with the longest sentence given to the offender is the one recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Multiple charge (MC) – If an offender is charged with, and found guilty of more than one offence, all charges will be recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Needs:

Attitude – degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change

Peers/companions (social interaction) – level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers

Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse) – degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems

Employment – employment status (employed vs. unemployed) and employment history

Family/marital relationships (marital/family) – presence or absence of serious problems in relationships

Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional) – whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this related to serious problems

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on adult correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey, the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the Adult Correctional Services Survey. Currently data from ICSS are presented in this *Juristat* for Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP while the ACS Survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under some form of provincial, territorial or federal correctional supervision. The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data and characteristics information on adult offenders in participating jurisdictions. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

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Table 1

Adult population estimates, by province and territory as at July 1st, 1994 to 2003

Province/territory	Sex	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
thousands											
Newfoundland and Labrador	T.	426.7	424.8	422.6	419.5	414.1	412.1	410.7	409.0	410.1	413.3
	M.	211.5	210.1	208.5	206.6	203.3	201.8	200.6	199.2	199.5	201.1
	F.	215.2	214.8	214.1	212.8	210.8	210.3	210.1	209.8	210.6	212.2
Prince Edward Island	T.	98.1	99.2	100.4	101.3	101.5	102.4	103.1	103.8	104.6	105.9
	M.	47.7	48.2	48.8	49.1	49.1	49.4	49.6	49.9	50.2	50.8
	F.	50.4	51.0	51.6	52.2	52.4	52.9	53.4	53.9	54.4	55.1
Nova Scotia	T.	704.7	707.2	711.3	715.1	717.9	722.7	725.6	727.8	733.6	739.1
	M.	342.2	342.9	344.5	346.1	347.3	349.5	350.7	351.7	355.2	357.9
	F.	362.4	364.3	366.9	369.0	370.5	373.2	374.8	376.0	378.5	381.2
New Brunswick	T.	568.1	571.4	575.0	578.0	579.3	582.1	584.9	587.6	591.0	594.4
	M.	278.5	280.1	282.0	283.1	283.5	284.6	285.9	287.0	288.5	290.2
	F.	289.7	291.3	293.0	294.8	295.8	297.5	299.0	300.6	302.4	304.2
Quebec	T.	5,494.1	5,529.3	5,563.8	5,610.0	5,653.9	5,706.4	5,760.3	5,816.4	5,876.9	5,935.4
	M.	2,671.6	2,689.2	2,706.9	2,730.9	2,753.4	2,780.6	2,808.2	2,837.0	2,868.1	2,898.4
	F.	2,822.5	2,840.0	2,856.9	2,879.0	2,900.5	2,925.9	2,952.1	2,979.5	3,008.8	3,037.1
Ontario	T.	8,196.6	8,297.3	8,395.5	8,518.8	8,635.4	8,761.9	8,918.7	9,104.0	9,291.6	9,444.7
	M.	3,989.9	4,035.3	4,080.1	4,145.1	4,206.0	4,272.8	4,354.5	4,450.8	4,543.3	4,617.0
	F.	4,206.7	4,262.0	4,315.4	4,373.7	4,429.4	4,489.1	4,564.3	4,653.2	4,748.2	4,827.6
Manitoba	T.	830.6	835.2	839.9	843.1	846.2	851.8	857.6	862.9	869.1	877.8
	M.	406.7	409.0	411.4	413.0	414.6	417.6	420.5	423.4	426.5	430.8
	F.	423.9	426.2	428.5	430.1	431.5	434.2	437.1	439.6	442.7	447.1
Saskatchewan	T.	726.8	732.5	738.5	741.0	743.5	745.1	743.4	741.9	742.4	745.7
	M.	357.4	360.1	363.2	364.4	365.6	366.2	365.4	364.4	364.7	366.5
	F.	369.4	372.3	375.3	376.5	377.9	378.8	378.1	377.5	377.7	379.3
Alberta	T.	1,961.3	1,992.4	2,029.8	2,078.1	2,139.0	2,190.8	2,241.4	2,293.6	2,349.8	2,393.2
	M.	980.3	995.5	1,014.3	1,039.4	1,071.5	1,098.6	1,124.9	1,152.2	1,181.3	1,203.3
	F.	981.0	996.9	1,015.5	1,038.7	1,067.5	1,092.2	1,116.5	1,141.4	1,168.5	1,189.9
British Columbia	T.	2,805.0	2,888.6	2,970.7	3,035.2	3,071.4	3,105.2	3,139.9	3,185.7	3,233.3	3,277.6
	M.	1,384.6	1,425.8	1,465.3	1,495.7	1,512.1	1,527.1	1,543.3	1,565.1	1,587.2	1,608.1
	F.	1,420.4	1,462.8	1,505.4	1,539.5	1,559.4	1,578.1	1,596.5	1,620.7	1,646.1	1,669.4
Yukon Territory	T.	21.3	21.8	22.6	23.0	22.6	22.5	22.4	22.4	22.6	23.6
	M.	11.0	11.3	11.7	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.9
	F.	10.3	10.5	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.2	11.7
Northwest Territories	T.	40.9	41.8	42.5	42.7	42.6	27.6	27.6	28.0	28.7	29.2
	M.	21.6	22.1	22.4	22.5	22.4	14.3	14.4	14.6	14.9	15.2
	F.	19.3	19.8	20.1	20.2	20.3	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.8	14.0
Nunavut	T.	...	...	...	...	...	15.3	15.7	16.2	16.7	17.2
	M.	...	...	...	...	...	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.7	9.0
	F.	...	...	...	...	...	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.2
Canada	T.	21,874.2	22,141.5	22,412.7	22,705.5	22,967.5	23,245.9	23,551.3	23,899.3	24,270.3	24,597.1
	M.	10,703.1	10,829.5	10,959.1	11,107.8	11,240.4	11,382.2	11,537.6	11,715.1	11,899.7	12,060.1
	F.	11,171.1	11,311.9	11,453.7	11,597.7	11,727.1	11,863.7	12,013.6	12,184.2	12,370.6	12,537.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Year	Sentenced admissions		Non-sentenced admissions						Total	
				Remand ¹		Other/temporary detention		Total			
		no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador ^{2,3}	1999/00	936	...	263	...	9	...	272	...	1,208	...
	2000/01	944	0.9	388	47.5	0	...	388	42.6	1,332	10.3
	2001/02	1,094 ^r	15.9	422 ^r	8.8	93 ^r	...	515 ^r	32.7	1,609 ^r	20.8
	2002/03	1,032 ^r	-5.7	426	0.9	104 ^r	11.8	530	2.9	1,562 ^r	-2.9
	2003/04	1,024	-0.8	433	1.6	107	2.9	540	1.9	1,564	0.1
Prince Edward Island	1999/00	647	...	191	...	0	...	191	...	838	...
	2000/01	586	-9.4	176	-7.9	0	...	176	-7.9	762	-9.1
	2001/02	650 ^r	10.9	178	1.1	0	...	178	1.1	828	8.7
	2002/03	594	-8.6	265	48.9	0	...	265	48.9	859	3.7
	2003/04	489	-17.7	189	-28.7	0	...	189	-28.7	678	-21.1
Nova Scotia	1999/00	1,825	...	1,553	...	462	...	2,015	...	3,840	...
	2000/01	1,624	-11.0	1,758	13.2	406	-12.1	2,164	7.4	3,788	-1.4
	2001/02	1,507	-7.2	1,881	7.0	467	15.0	2,348	8.5	3,855	1.8
	2002/03	1,376	-8.7	1,156	-38.5	505	8.1	1,661	-29.3	3,037	-21.2
	2003/04	1,335	-3.0	1,319	14.1	474	-6.1	1,793	7.9	3,128	3.0
New Brunswick ^{3,4}	1999/00	2,179	...	1,301	...	0	...	1,301	...	3,480	...
	2000/01	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	2,884	-17.1
	2001/02	1,555	...	1,337	...	574	...	1,911	...	3,466	20.2
	2002/03	2,454 ^r	57.8	1,358 ^r	1.6	536 ^r	-6.6	1,894 ^r	-0.9	4,348 ^r	25.4
	2003/04	2,303	-6.2	1,469	8.2	549	2.4	2,018	6.5	4,321	-0.6
Quebec	1999/00	18,016	...	25,814	...	2,698	...	28,512	...	46,528	...
	2000/01	14,951	-17.0	26,063	1.0	2,897	7.4	28,960	1.6	43,911	-5.6
	2001/02	14,372	-3.9	27,341	4.9	2,984	3.0	30,325	4.7	44,697	1.8
	2002/03	13,423	-6.6	26,588	-2.8	3,069	2.8	29,657	-2.2	43,080	-3.6
	2003/04	11,933	-11.1	25,761	-3.1	2,849	-7.2	28,610	-3.5	40,543	-5.9
Ontario	1999/00	30,747	...	46,637	...	5,533	...	52,170	...	82,917	...
	2000/01	30,999	0.8	52,179	11.9	3,239	-41.5	55,418	6.2	86,417	4.2
	2001/02	31,980	3.2	56,370	8.0	8,257	154.9	64,627	16.6	96,607	11.8
	2002/03	33,050	3.3	58,470	3.7	11,631	40.9	70,101	8.5	103,151	6.8
	2003/04	31,710	-4.1	57,854	-1.1	13,291	14.3	71,145	1.5	102,855	-0.3
Manitoba	1999/00	3,284 ^r	...	6,567 ^r	...	4,736 ^r	...	11,303 ^r	...	14,587 ^r	...
	2000/01	2,901	-11.7	6,955	5.9	4,924	4.0	11,879	5.1	14,780	1.3
	2001/02	3,025	4.3	7,625	9.6	5,554	12.8	13,179	10.9	16,204	9.6
	2002/03	3,316	9.6	8,615	13.0	6,083	9.5	14,698	11.5	18,014	11.2
	2003/04	3,139	-5.3	8,273	-4.0	7,349	20.8	15,622	6.3	18,761	4.1
Saskatchewan ³	1999/00	3,368	...	8,665	...	200	...	8,865	...	12,233	...
	2000/01	3,219	-4.4	9,548	10.2	222	11.0	9,770	10.2	12,989	6.2
	2001/02	3,191 ^r	-0.9	4,982 ^r	-47.8	171 ^r	-23.0	5,153 ^r	-47.3	8,344 ^r	-35.8
	2002/03	3,354 ^r	5.1	5,514 ^r	10.7	190 ^r	11.1	5,704 ^r	10.7	9,058 ^r	8.6
	2003/04	3,159	-5.8	5,443	-1.3	173	-8.9	5,616	-1.5	8,775	-3.1
Alberta	1999/00	14,728	...	7,784	...	0	...	7,784	...	22,512	...
	2000/01	14,859	0.9	8,179	5.1	0	...	8,179	5.1	23,038	2.3
	2001/02	15,164	2.1	8,875	8.5	0	...	8,875	8.5	24,039	4.3
	2002/03	16,190	6.8	9,655	8.8	0	...	9,655	8.8	25,845	7.5
	2003/04	16,255	0.4	10,037	4.0	0	...	10,037	4.0	26,292	1.7
British Columbia ⁵	1999/00	9,739	...	11,602	...	7,919	...	19,521	...	29,260	...
	2000/01	9,520	-2.2	12,185	5.0	13,199	66.7	25,384	30.0	34,904	19.3
	2001/02	9,263	-2.7	10,687	-12.3	13,362	1.2	24,049	-5.3	33,312	-4.6
	2002/03	8,740	-5.6	11,507	7.7	13,030	-2.5	24,537	2.0	33,277	-0.1
	2003/04	8,812	0.8	11,840	2.9	13,565	4.1	25,405	3.5	34,217	2.8

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 1999/00 to 2003/04 – Concluded

Jurisdiction	Year	Sentenced admissions		Non-sentenced admissions						Total	
				Remand ¹		Other/temporary detention		Total			
		no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change
Yukon	1999/00	308	...	321	...	6	...	327	...	635	...
	2000/01	294	-4.5	302	-5.9	13	116.7	315	-3.7	609	-4.1
	2001/02	280	-4.8	323	7.0	24	84.6	347	10.2	627	3.0
	2002/03	206	-26.4	327	1.2	13	-45.8	340	-2.0	546	-12.9
	2003/04	192	-6.8	358	9.5	15	15.4	373	9.7	565	3.5
Northwest Territories ⁶	1999/00	1,108	...	694	...	..	...	694	...	1,802	...
	2000/01	802	-27.6	628	-9.5	1	...	629	-9.4	1,431	-20.6
	2001/02	562	-29.9	237	-62.3	13	1200.0	250	-60.3	812	-43.3
	2002/03	685	21.9	268	13.1	2	-84.6	270	8.0	955	17.6
	2003/04	616	-10.1	233	-13.1	4	100.0	237	-12.2	853	-10.7
Nunavut	1999/00	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	229	...	205	...	0	...	205	...	434	...
	2001/02	217	-5.2	254	23.9	0	...	254	23.9	471	8.5
	2002/03	240	10.6	197	-22.4	0	...	197	-22.4	437	-7.2
	2003/04	171	-28.8	192	-2.5	0	...	192	-2.5	363	-16.9
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)	1999/00 ²	86,885	...	111,392	...	21,563	...	132,955	...	219,840	...
	2000/01	80,928	...	118,566	...	24,901	...	143,467	...	227,279	...
	2001/02	82,860 ^r	...	120,512 ^r	...	31,499 ^r	...	152,011 ^r	...	234,871 ^r	...
	2002/03	84,660 ^r	2.2	124,346 ^r	3.2	35,163 ^r	11.6	159,509 ^r	4.9	244,169 ^r	4.0
	2003/04	81,138	-4.2	123,401	-0.8	38,376	9.1	161,777	1.4	242,915	-0.5
Provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) ⁷	1999/00 ²	84,706	...	110,091	...	21,563	...	131,654	...	216,360	...
	2000/01	80,699	-4.7	118,361	7.5	24,901	15.5	143,262	8.8	226,845	4.8
	2001/02	81,088	0.5	118,921	0.5	30,925	24.2	149,846	4.6	230,934	1.8
	2002/03	81,966	1.1	122,791	3.3	34,627	12.0	157,418	5.1	239,384	3.7
	2003/04	78,664	-4.0	121,740	-0.9	37,827	9.2	159,567	1.4	238,231	-0.5

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, interjurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^r revised

1. Figures for remand may include counts for other temporary detention.

2. Due to Y2K system problems, the data from 1999/00 are estimated.

3. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/02; New Brunswick, 2002/03; Saskatchewan, 2001/02. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

4. Total admission figures for 1999/00 were reported on a fiscal year basis, while the breakdown was calculated according to the calendar year. New Brunswick data for 2000/01 have been included only in the total due to missing data in the sub-categories.

5. 'Other temporary detention' denotes pre-court lock-ups in a correctional facility, which is a new category beginning in 1999/00.

6. Data for Northwest Territories in 1999/00 also include Nunavut admissions for that year, while subsequent years do not.

7. To allow year-over-year comparisons, New Brunswick and Nunavut have been excluded from all totals, as well as British Columbia for other temporary detention totals due to missing data in some years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Adult sentenced admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Unit of count ¹	Criminal Code					Other federal statutes ²			Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other Criminal Code	Total	Drug offences	Other	Total	Total
		number				%				
<i>Provincial and territorial</i>										
Newfoundland and Labrador	MSO	1,024	24	27	13	25	89	0	9	2
Prince Edward Island	MSO	489	18	13	59	7	96	2	1	0
Nova Scotia	MSO	1,335	20	20	13	36	89	5	3	3
New Brunswick	MSO	2,303	18	25	10	23	76	0	2	0
Quebec	MSO	11,933	5	14	14	12	45	7	0	48
Ontario	MSO	31,710	26	29	5	28	89	7	1	3
Manitoba	MSO	3,139	57	18	6	12	93	1	5	1
Saskatchewan	MSO	3,159	26	19	8	40	92	2	1	5
Alberta	MC	49,076	7	24	3	35	69	3	1	27
British Columbia	MSD	8,812	13	26	3	37	79	7	7	7
Yukon	MC	565	28	23	4	38	94	4	2	0
Northwest Territories	MSO	616	57	13	7	21	98	1	0 ^s	1
Nunavut	MSO	171	76	9	2	11	98	2	0	0
<i>Federal</i>	MSO	4,226	52	19	2	12	86	14	0 ^s	0 ^s

Note: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total probation admissions excluding those where major offence is not known.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

.. figures not available for specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded.

1. MSO = most serious offence

MSD = most serious disposition

MC = multiple charge

Alberta and Yukon classify program commencements using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge.

2. Includes the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and other federal statutes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Jurisdiction		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹	1999/00	310	...	1,811	...
	2000/01	319	2.9	1,906	5.2
	2001/02	321	0.6	1,789	-6.1
	2002/03	308	-4.0	1,727	-3.5
	2003/04	407	32.1	1,715	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	1999/00	50	...	592	...
	2000/01	40	-20.0	533	-10.0
	2001/02	40	0.0	563	5.6
	2002/03	37	-7.5	541	-3.9
	2003/04	58	56.8	498	-7.9
Nova Scotia	1999/00	628	...	3,791	...
	2000/01	623	-0.8	3,653	-3.6
	2001/02	614	-1.4	3,547	-2.9
	2002/03	626	2.0	3,728	5.1
	2003/04	664	6.1	3,860	3.5
New Brunswick ¹	1999/00	499	...	1,429	...
	2000/01	682	36.7	1,733	21.3
	2001/02	667	-2.2	1,830	5.6
	2002/03	606 ^r	-9.1	1,792 ^r	-2.1
	2003/04	615	1.5	1,753	-2.2
Quebec	1999/00	4,557	...	7,098	...
	2000/01	4,259	-6.5	7,704	8.5
	2001/02	4,670	9.7	8,277	7.4
	2002/03	4,941	5.8	8,280	0.0
	2003/04	4,525	-8.4	8,645	4.4
Ontario	1999/00	4,271	...	33,432	...
	2000/01	4,211	-1.4	34,920	4.5
	2001/02	4,416	4.9	38,236	9.5
	2002/03	4,920	11.4	39,778	4.0
	2003/04	5,212	5.9	37,407	-6.0
Manitoba ²	1999/00	584	...	...	...
	2000/01	705	20.7	6,811	...
	2001/02	766	8.7	5,219	-23.4
	2002/03	798	4.2	3,501	-32.9
	2003/04	739	-7.4	3,379	-3.5
Saskatchewan ¹	1999/00	1,243	...	3,242	...
	2000/01	1,365	9.8	3,457	6.6
	2001/02	1,365 ^r	0.0	3,444 ^r	-0.4
	2002/03	1,466 ^r	7.4	3,549 ^r	3.0
	2003/04	1,514	3.3	3,438	-3.1
Alberta	1999/00	1,120	...	8,706	...
	2000/01	1,558	39.1	9,360	7.5
	2001/02	1,731	11.1	9,438	0.8
	2002/03	1,590	-8.1	8,821	-6.5
	2003/04	1,558	-2.0	8,597	-2.5
British Columbia	1999/00	2,439	...	12,283	...
	2000/01	3,226	32.3	11,509	-6.3
	2001/02	3,712	15.1	11,067	-3.8
	2002/03	3,545	-4.5	10,429	-5.8
	2003/04	3,141	-11.4	9,120	-12.6

Table 4



Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 1999/00 to 2003/04 – Concluded

Jurisdiction		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Yukon	1999/00	91	...	405	...
	2000/01	96	5.5	353	-12.8
	2001/02	104	8.3	338	-4.2
	2002/03	99	-4.8	363	7.4
	2003/04	96	-3.0	292	-19.6
Northwest Territories	1999/00	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	..	...	..	...
	2001/02	..	...	..	...
	2002/03	..	...	..	...
	2003/04	..	...	..	...
Nunavut	1999/00	..	...	..	...
	2000/01	..	...	..	...
	2001/02	198	...	801	...
	2002/03	285	43.9	885	10.5
	2003/04	328	15.1	922	4.2
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data) ³	1999/00	15,792	...	72,789	...
	2000/01	17,084	...	81,939	...
	2001/02	18,604 ^r	...	84,549 ^r	...
	2002/03	19,221 ^r	3.3	83,394 ^r	-1.4
	2003/04	18,857	-1.9	79,626	-4.5
Provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) ⁴	1999/00	15,792	...	72,789	...
	2000/01	17,084	8.2	75,128	3.2
	2001/02	18,406	7.7	78,529	4.5
	2002/03	18,936	2.9	79,008	0.6
	2003/04	18,529	-2.1	78,704	-0.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/02; New Brunswick, 2002/03; Saskatchewan, 2001/02. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

2. While probation admissions for 2001/02 and 2002/03 have decreased from 2000/01 levels, some of the decrease can be attributed to the implementation in 1999/00 of a new information system (COMS).

3. Includes data from all jurisdictions except for Northwest Territories. Because of missing data from various jurisdictions between 1999/00 and 2001/02, percentage change from total figures is not appropriate.

4. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the probation totals due to missing data in some years, and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been excluded from the conditional sentences totals.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Admissions to probation by major offence, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Year	Total probation admissions	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
		number				%			
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹	1999/00	1,811	40	34	5	14	4	1	2
	2000/01	1,906	37	33	5	19	5	1	1
	2001/02	1,789 ^r	36 ^r	28	7	21	0	7	1 ^r
	2002/03	1,727 ^r	36 ^r	28 ^r	7	21	0	5	2
	2003/04	1,715	34	27	7	21	0	6	3
Prince Edward Island	1999/00	592	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2000/01	533	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	563	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	541	36	26	18	18	1	0	0
	2003/04	498	44	21	17	15	3	0	0
Nova Scotia	1999/00	3,791	33	27	7	26	6	1	0 ^s
	2000/01	3,653	34	24	6	29	6	1	0 ^s
	2001/02	3,547	35	23	7	28	7	1	0 ^s
	2002/03	3,728	35	23	7	29	6	1	0 ^s
	2003/04	3,860	35	21	8	30	5	0	0 ^s
New Brunswick ^{1,2}	1999/00	1,429	38	33	3	23	2	0	0
	2000/01	1,733	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	1,830	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	1,792 ^r	38 ^r	32 ^r	4 ^r	16 ^r	9	0	0
	2003/04	1,753	41	33	4	15	6	0	0
Quebec	1999/00	7,098	31	36	4	18	11	0	0 ^s
	2000/01	7,704	30	37	4	18	11	0	0 ^s
	2001/02	8,277	31	35	4	18	11	1	0 ^s
	2002/03	8,280	32	34	4	19	11	0	0 ^s
	2003/04	8,645	31	34	4	20	11	0	0
Ontario	1999/00	33,432	45	32	5	11	5	0	1
	2000/01	34,920	45	31 ^r	6	12 ^r	6	0	1
	2001/02	38,236	53	23	5	12	6	0	1
	2002/03	39,778	54	23	5	16	2	0	0 ^s
	2003/04	37,407	53	24	4	13	5	0	0
Manitoba ³	1999/00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2000/01	6,811	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	5,219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	3,501	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/04	3,379	54	21	4	19	2	0	0
Saskatchewan ¹	1999/00	3,242	53	23	9	11	0	5	0 ^s
	2000/01	3,457	49 ^r	25 ^r	7	14 ^r	0	5	0 ^s
	2001/02	3,444 ^r	50	24	6 ^r	17 ^r	2 ^r	1 ^r	0 ^s
	2002/03	3,549 ^r	50 ^r	24 ^r	7 ^r	17 ^r	2 ^r	0	0 ^s
	2003/04	3,438	48	24	6	19	2	1	1
Alberta	1999/00	8,706	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2000/01	9,360	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	9,438	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	8,821	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/04	8,597	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Table 5

Admissions to probation by major offence, 1999/00 to 2003/04 – Concluded

Jurisdiction	Year	Total probation admissions number	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other %	Drug offences	Other	
British Columbia	1999/00	12,283	42	27	4	18	7	1	1
	2000/01	11,509	40	32	4	14	8	0	1
	2001/02	11,067	40	33	3	14	8	0	1
	2002/03	10,429	40	34	3	14	8	0	1
	2003/04	9,120	37	34	3	18	7	0	1
Yukon	1999/00	405	24	21	7	40	3	0	5
	2000/01	353	32	21	7	33	4	0	4
	2001/02	338	33	15	5	41	3	0	3
	2002/03	363	50	14	7	23	5	0	1
	2003/04	292	46	15	5	26	5	0	3
Northwest Territories	1999/00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2000/01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/04	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut ⁴	1999/00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2000/01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/02	801	51	22	1	20	4	0	2
	2002/03	885	51	12	1	30	4	0	1
	2003/04	922	54	11	2	29	2	0	1
Total	1999/00	72,789	42	31	5	15 ¹	6	1	1
	2000/01	81,939	42	31	5	14	6	1	1
	2001/02	84,549 ¹	46	26	5	15 ¹	6	1	1
	2002/03	83,394 ¹	47	26 ¹	5	17	4	1 ¹	0 ^{sr}
	2003/04	79,626	46	26	5	17	5	1	0 ^s

Note: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total probation admissions excluding those where major offence is not known.

.. not available for a specific reference period

¹ revised

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded.

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/02; New Brunswick, 2002/03; Saskatchewan, 2001/02. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

2. Offence data unavailable due to a changeover to a new case management system.

3. Offence data unavailable due to major system development work.

4. Nunavut – Data are provided by the informatic court services. Nunavut admissions to community corrections represent the unique number of persons admitted to a particular legal status during the year and not the number of distinct admissions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 6

**Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal Identity,
Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2003/04**

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number	% ²	Number	% ²	Number	% ²
Total	13,080	100.0	4,714	100.0	6,369	100.0
Sex						
Male	9,522	86.0	3,899	82.8	5,623	88.4
Female	1,551	14.0	810	17.2	741	11.6
Unknown	10		5		5	
Age at First Involvement Admission Date						
Under 18	5	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.1
18-19	1,057	9.5	528	11.2	529	8.3
20-24	2,333	21.1	1,070	22.7	1,263	19.8
25-29	1,823	16.5	826	17.5	997	15.7
30-34	1,628	14.7	757	16.1	871	13.7
35-39	1,493	13.5	667	14.1	826	13.0
40-44	1,198	10.8	442	9.4	756	11.9
45-49	734	6.6	227	4.8	507	8.0
50 and over	811	7.3	196	4.2	615	9.7
Unknown	1		0		1	
Mean (Standard Deviation)	32.4	(11.3)	30.6	(9.7)	33.5	(11.8)
Median	31.0		29.0		32.0	
Marital Status³						
Single - never married	5,801	54.1	2,433	52.4	3,368	55.3
Married	1,135	10.6	366	7.9	769	12.6
Common-law	2,460	22.9	1,414	30.5	1,046	17.2
Separated/Divorced	1,256	11.7	394	8.5	862	14.2
Widowed	76	0.7	36	0.8	40	0.7
Unknown	355		71		284	
Education Completed for Age 25 and over³						
No formal education	8	0.1	0	0.0	8	0.2
Some primary	638	9.6	354	12.1	284	7.6
Completed primary	888	13.3	350	11.9	538	14.4
Some secondary	1,902	28.5	1,409	48.1	493	13.2
Completed secondary	2,463	36.9	631	21.5	1,832	48.9
Some post-secondary	284	4.3	105	3.6	179	4.8
Completed post-secondary	494	7.4	81	2.8	413	11.0
Unknown	1,049		211		838	
Employment Status at admission³						
Unemployed (but able to work)	4,512	45.0	1,951	45.8	2,561	44.4
Employed (part-time, full-time)	4,209	42.0	1,494	35.1	2,715	47.1
Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc.	304	3.0	193	4.5	111	1.9
Student - not employed	547	5.5	320	7.5	227	3.9
Retired - not employed	77	0.8	4	0.1	73	1.3
Other - not employed	378	3.8	296	7.0	82	1.4
Unknown	1,056		456		600	
Need Indicated^{3,4}						
substance abuse (n = 4,826)	3,933	81.5	2,996	93.1	937	73.4
attitude (n = 4,823)	3,102	64.3	2,359	73.4	743	58.3
family/marital (n = 4,825)	2,505	51.9	1,871	58.2	634	49.7
personal/emotional (n = 4,824)	693	14.4	454	14.1	239	18.7
social interaction (n = 4,825)	3,324	68.9	2,584	80.3	740	58.0
employment (n = 4,824)	2,598	53.9	2,100	65.3	498	39.0

Table 6

**Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal Identity,
Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2003/04 – Concluded**

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number	% ²	Number	% ²	Number	% ²
Number of needs indicated^{3,5}						
Zero to one	443	9.9	180	5.6	263	20.6
Two to three	1,423	31.7	927	28.8	496	38.9
Four	1,270	28.3	990	30.8	280	22.0
Five to six	1,353	30.1	1,117	34.8	236	18.5
Mean (Standard Deviation)	3.6	(1.5)	3.8	(1.3)	3.0	(1.6)
Median	4.0		4.0		3.0	
Most Serious Offence, First Involvement						
Violent offences	4,046	36.5	2,217	47.0	1,829	28.7
Serious violent offences ⁶	1,222	11.0	787	16.7	435	6.8
Sexual offences	348	3.1	172	3.6	176	2.8
Robbery	246	2.2	157	3.3	89	1.4
Common Assault	1,629	14.7	863	18.3	766	12.0
Other violent offences ⁷	601	5.4	238	5.0	363	5.7
Property offences	2,383	21.5	899	19.1	1,484	23.3
Break and Enter	582	5.3	275	5.8	307	4.8
Theft and Possession of Property	1,109	10.0	419	8.9	690	10.8
Fraud	422	3.8	106	2.2	316	5.0
Other property offences	270	2.4	99	2.1	171	2.7
Offences against the Administration of Justice	1,010	9.1	547	11.6	463	7.3
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	615	5.5	276	5.9	339	5.3
<i>Criminal Code</i> – traffic offences	1,330	12.0	472	10.0	858	13.5
Drug offences	560	5.1	106	2.2	454	7.1
Other offences ⁸	1,139	10.3	197	4.2	942	14.8

1. Includes 1,997 (15%) cases where Aboriginal status was unknown.

2. Percentage calculations excludes 'unknown'.

3. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

4. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick and includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high.

5. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick and includes only those cases in which all needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of needs is 6 and minimum is 0. N = 4,821, N (Aboriginal) = 3,214, N (Non-Aboriginal) = 1,275.

6. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

7. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

8. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, municipal bylaw infractions, and unknown offences.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Operating expenditures of the adult correctional system, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Current dollars									
	Custodial services		Community supervision services		Headquarters and central services		NPB or provincial parole boards ¹		Total	Per capita cost ²
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%		\$
Federal expenditures ³	967,590	66.8	157,199	10.9	286,958	19.8	35,700	2.5	1,447,446	45.76
Provincial and territorial expenditures ⁴	1,000,838	78.7	211,349	16.6	53,084	4.2	6,685	0.5	1,271,957	40.21
Total expenditures⁵	1,968,428	72.4	368,548	13.6	340,042	12.5	42,385	1.6	2,719,403	85.98

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

1. Federal expenditures include Correctional Service Canada and National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

2. Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

3. Provincial parole boards operate in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

4. Per capita cost is total cost of correctional services divided by the total Canadian population.

5. Excludes all data from Prince Edward Island.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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